The Pittsburgh Gazette.

ESTABLISHED IN 1786. PITTSBURGH, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1874. VOL. 89.—NO. 303.

DAILY GAZETTE.

THE LATEST NEWS.

Condensed Telegrams from All Quarters.

—The French National Assembly has adjourned until January 5th.

—Joseph Morris, an old citizen living near Indianapolis, was killed last Wednesday night while attempting to cross the railroad track in front of a train.

—Both houses of the Arkansas Legislature are reduced below a quorum, and adjourn from day to day. No quorum is expected in either body before Monday.

—In Nashville, on Thursday, a horse attached to an express wagon ran away, running over Mrs. Moore, who was crossing the street, breaking both her arms and legs, and also crushing in the skull.

—About two hundred mechanics and laborers on the foundation of the new Custom House and Postoffice building in St. Louis, were discharged on Thursday and worked stopped, the appropriation having been exhausted.

—An attempt was made last Wednesday night to rob James A. Robinson, a hogbuyer, near Fort Branch, Ind. He was shot twice, one ball lodging in a package of money in his breast-coat pocket and another passing through the skirt of his overcoat.

—The insurance of Wise & Sondheimer's tobacco factory in St. Louis, burned last Wednesday night, is as follows: Fire Association of Philadelphia, and Amazon of Cincinnati, each $2,000; Franklin, St. Louis, Merchants, Newark, N. J., $3,000; West Chester, N. Y., Peoples, Newark, N. J., Commercial, St. Louis, and Globe, Chicago, $2,500; Union Mutual, Philadelphia, $1,500; Smith, Biggs & Co.'s machine shop: Germania and Niagara, N. Y., Franklin, Philadelphia, National and Orient, Hartford, $2,500; Standard, N. Y., $1,500; Meredin, Conn., $1,000. On the tobacco factory building, $5,000 each in the Hope, Mutual and Mound City of St. Louis.

A CHRISTMAS HYMN.

The air was still o'er Bethlehem's plain,
As if the great night held its breath,
When Life Eternal came to reign
Over a world of Death.

The Pagan at his midnight board
Let fall his brimming cup of gold:
He felt the presence of his Lord
Before His birth was told.

The temples trembled to their base,
The idols shuddered as in pain;
A priesthood in its power of place
Knelt to its gods in vain.

All nature felt a thrill divine
When burst that meteor on the night,
Which, pointing to the Savior's shrine,
Proclaimed the new-born light—

Light to the shepherds! and the star
Gilded their silent midnight fold—
Light to the Wise Men from afar
Bearing their gifts of gold—

Light to a realm of Sin and Grief—
Light to a world in all its needs—
The Light of life—a new belief
Rising o'er fallen creeds—

Light on a tangled path of thorns,
Though leading to a martyr's throne—
A light to guide till Christ returns
In glory to His own.

There still it shines, while far abroad
The Christmas choir sings now, and then,
"Glory, glory unto God!
Peace and good-will to men!"

HOME, Christmas, 1873. T. BUCHANAN READ.

—Lippincott's Magazine for January.

THE COMING WIFE.

How She Helps Her Husband Under Difficulties — Patience and Sunshine.

(From the Detroit Free Press.)

She's a little bit of a woman, all patience and sunshine, and I'd spoil the best silk hat that money could buy for the privilege of handing her my umbrella in a rain storm.

She's married, and she's got an old rhinoceros of a husband. He makes it a practice to come home tight at eleven o'clock every other night, and has for years, and he can't remember that she ever gave him a cross word about it. When he falls into the hall she is waiting to close the door and help him back to the sitting-room, where a good fire awaits him. She draws off his boots, unbuttons his collar, helps him off with his coat, and all the time she is saying:

"Poor Henry! How sorry I am that you had this attack of vertigo! I am afraid that you will be found dead by the roadside some night."

"Whazzer mean by verzhigo?" he growls; but she helps him off with his vest, and pleasantly continues:

"I'm so glad you got home all right. I hope the day will come when you can pass more of your time at home. It is dreadful how your business drives you."

"What bizzidness — whaz yor talking 'bout?" he replies.

"Poor one—how hot your head is!" she continues, and presently he breaks down and weeps and exclaims:

"Yez, zur—zic's a 'orse—wearing zelf out fast's can—wishzi was dead!"

Next morning she never refers to the subject, but pleasantly inquires how he slept, and if his mind is clear. His boots may be missing, and he yells out:

"Whar'n thunder's my boots?"

"Right here, my dear?" she replies, and she hands them out, all nicely blacked up.

If she wants a dress, or a hat, or a cloak, and he yells out that household expenses are eating up, she heaves "sasses" him back, nor tells him she could have married a Congressman, nor declares that she will write to her mother and tell her just how it is.

"That's so, my dear—times are hard," she says, and she gets up just as good a dinner as if he had left her fifty dollars.

He may come home tight at supper time, but she is not shocked. She remarks that it is an unexpected pleasure to have him home so early, and she pretends not to notice his stupid look. He sees three chairs where there is but one, and in trying to sit down he strikes the floor like the fall of a derrick.

"Whazzer jaw zhat chair's way for?" he yells, and she replies:

"It's that hole in the carpet—I knew you would stumble," and she helps him up and brings him a strong cup of tea.

They do not keep a servant, and when cold weather came she never thought of planking herself down in a chair opposite him and saying:

"Now, then, you'll either get up and light the fires or there won't be any lighted—mark that old baldhead!"

No, she did'nt resort to any such base and tyrannical measures. When daylight comes she slips out of bed, makes two fires, warms his socks, and then, bending over him, she whispers:

"Arise, darling, and greet the festive morn!"

He's sick sometimes, and I've known that woman to coax him for two straight hours to take the doctor's medicine, turn over his pillow twenty-two times, keep a wet cloth on his head, pare his corn down, and then wish that she had a quail to make him some soup. When he gets into a fight down town and comes home with his ears bitten up and his nose pointed to the northeast, she inquires how the horse happened to run away with him, and she says she is so thankful that he wasn't killed. She has an excuse for anything, and she never admits that any one but herself is to blame about anything. Lor' bless her—I hope she'll slip into heaven and never be asked a question.

AN OLD HERO.

Inscription on a Tomb Stone in a Cemetery at Wellsburg, W. Va.

A gentleman of this city while at Wellsburg a few days since copied the following inscription from a tomb stone in a graveyard there, and it is especially *apropos* in view of the recent centennial celebration of the Boston tea party:

"Captain Oliver Brown, of the Artillery of the Massachusetts Line, Revolutionary War—Born in Lexington, Mass., 1752. He stood in front of the first cannon fired by the British on the Americans in the affray at Lexington — witnessed the Tea Party in Boston Harbor — was at the Battle of Bunker Hill — Commissioned by Congress 16th of January 1776—Commanded the volunteer party that bore off the leaden statue of King George from the Battery of New York and made it into bullets for the American army —Bore a conspicuous part in command of artillery at the battles of White Plains, Harlem Heights, Princeton, Trenton, Brandy Wine, Germantown and Monmouth. After serving his country, he entered in the Armies of the Son of God and surrendered to the last *Enemy* on the 17th of February, 1846, in the full assurance of a never ending Peace."—*Wheeling Standard.*

THE only reason for disbelieving the statement that Don Carlos is losing ground in Spain is the certainty that he never legally owned a foot of it.

FIRST EDITION.

FROM EUROPE.

Shocking Railway Accident in England.

Thirty Persons Killed and Fifty Wounded.

Terrible Colliery Explosion.

Twenty Miners Instantly Killed.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Shocking Railway Accident.

LONDON, December 24.—A shocking railway accident occured to-day near the town of Woodcock, Oxfordshire. The express train on a branch of the Great Western railway was thrown from the track and precipitated down an embankment. Several of the carriages fell into a canal skirting the road. Thirty persons were killed and fifty wounded. Some of the latter are fatally injured. All have been conveyed to Oxford.

Terrible Colliery Explosion.

An explosion occurred in the Bignall Hill colliery, North Staffordshire, to-day. Twenty persons were killed. Thirteen bodies have been taken out.

SPAIN.

Meeting of the Commissioners to the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition.

MADRID, December 24.—The Spanish Commissioners to the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition met to-day. Senor Castelar made an eloquent address. He sketched the rise and progress of the United States, and the ideas of liberty and labor which prevailed there. He found in American civilization, language and arts, traces of Spanish origin, which time and ingratitude were unable to eradicate.

BUTLER, PA.

The Official Vote—Thompson's Majority over 2,000.

Special to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

BUTLER, December 24, 1874.

The returns show that Thompson has been endorsed by his neighbors in the most emphatic way. Of the total vote cast in Butler county he received two thousand four hundred and seventy, and his opponent, Nevin, two hundred and fifty-six. This is, perhaps, the most complimentary vote ever received by a candidate in Butler county. S.

WEATHER REPORT

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, UNITED STATES SIGNAL SERVICE, PITTSBURGH, PA., December 24, 1874.

Local Observations.

Time.	Bar.	Ther.	Humidt.	Wind.	Weather.
7 A. M.	29.93	33	61	W.	Cloudy.
2 P. M.	29.98	41	71	SW.	Fair.
9 P. M.	30.27	30	57	W.	Clear.

Mean Barometer, 30.11.
Mean Thermometer, 31.
Highest Thermometer, 38.
Lowest Thermometer, 30.

GEO. H. ROHE, Sergt., Sig. Service, U. S. A.

Daily Bulletin.

OFFICE OF OBSERVATORY, PITTSBURGH, Dec. 24, 1874, 10:48 P. M.

The weather at Cairo was clear, thermometer 34; Cincinnati, clear, thermometer 35; Fort Sully, D. T., clear, thermometer 17; Indianapolis, Ind., clear, thermometer 30; Keokuk, Iowa, clear, thermometer 28; Leavenworth, Kan., clear, thermometer 35; Louisville, Ky., clear, thermometer 36; Memphis, cloudy, thermometer 42; Nashville, Tenn., cloudy, thermometer 34; Pittsburgh, Pa., clear, thermometer 28; Shreveport, fair, thermometer 46; St. Louis, Mo., clear, thermometer 38; St. Paul, cloudy, Vicksburg, cloudy, thermometer 45; Yankton, D. T., cloudy, thermometer 21. Fort Gibson, I. T., clear, thermometer 35; La Crosse, Wis., threatening, thermometer 23.

GEO. H. ROHE, Sergt., Sig. Service, U. S. A.

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER, WASHINGTON, D. C., 1 A. M., Dec. 25, 1874.

Probabilities for To-day.

For New England and the Middle States, generally clear and colder weather will prevail, with brisk north or west winds, and rising barometer.

FIRES.

Petrolia—Five Buildings Consumed—A Partial List of the Sufferers.

PETROLIA, Pa., December 24.—About 12:20 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the second story of the Reno real estate building, situated on Argyle street. The alarm was immediately given, and the fire department was soon on the ground and fighting with the flames with a will, and to their noble efforts can be attributed the salvation of the greater portion of our flourishing town. Notwithstanding the efforts of the firemen, five buildings were consumed before the fire could be got under complete control. The losses, as near as can be ascertained, are as follows: Reno's real estate building and contents, belonging to a company, $5,000, no insurance; Major Hawkins, trunk, room furniture, clothes and diamond pin, $600, no insurance; Mrs. E. L. Stillwell, trunks, furniture, clothing, &c., $650, no insurance; R. R. Wise, trunk, clothes and room furniture, $500, no insurance; O. B. Holden, trunk and clothes, $250; James White, billiard room—damage to tables and furniture in moving, $2,500, insurance not known; Frank Massan, trunk and room fixtures over White's billiard hall, $150; Deed & Black, grocery and provision store, $1,800, insurance, $1,100; G. W. Gibbang, boot and shoe store and household furniture, $2,000, no insurance; John Stillwell, loss in damage to furniture in moving, $150. Other minor losses than those stated were sustained by different parties in moving goods from their dwellings. Stealing was little, if any, practiced, owing to the efficient police force.

New York—Loss $100,000.

NEW YORK, December 24.—John H. Keyser's stove works were burned this morning. The loss is estimated at $100,000.

Fort Erie, Ontario.

FORT ERIE, ONT., December 24.—A fire last night destroyed McLaren's Hotel, Harbison's grocery and dry goods store, Harris's Hotel, Willhelm's Hotel, Gibson's boot and shoe store and Wilson's clothing house.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 24, 1874.

Sleigh Riding in Central Park.

King Kalakaua and party had a sleigh ride in Central Park to-day, and afterwards visited the Normal college.

His Majesty this afternoon visited the Stock Exchange, accompanied by his suite and members of the Common Council, where he was introduced to the most prominent members.

Subscriptions for the Grasshopper Sufferers.

Whitelaw Read forwarded this evening by telegraph to ex-Governor Saunders, at Omaha, Neb., and Governor Osborne, Topeka, Kansas, $4,500, being the amount of the *Tribune* dollar subscription for the relief of Kansas and Nebraska sufferers. The *Tribune* is continuing to receive subscriptions at the rate of several hundred dollars a day.

Josephine Mansfield Recovers $25,000

The suit of Josephine Mansfield against the estate of the late James Fisk, Jr., to recover the value of two promissory notes, with interest, amounting altogether to $25,000, resulted in favor of the plaintiff.

"Ring" Suits.

Two new suits, growing out of the "Ring" operations, have been begun to recover $525,000 for the city.

Capture of a Convict—A Desperate Fight for Liberty.

JEFFERSONVILLE, Ind., December 24.—Bill Rodefer, the convict and noted desperado who scaled the walls and escaped from the State prison on Tuesday morning and robbed the residence of Mr. Mann, in New Albany, that night, was arrested to-day at Memphis, Clark county, Indiana, after a desperate fight. Rodefer entered Mat Coombs' store for provisions, and was recognized by Mr. Reynolds, who stepped out, got assistance, and returning, met Rodefer, and attempted to arrest him, when Rodefer drew a huge knife, and defying any one to arrest him, started down the street to where a horse was hitched. He cut the horse loose, mounted and rode away at a fearful rate, hotly pursued by men on foot and horseback. Being pressed closely, he turned and fought his pursuers desperately. After a number of shots were fired at him he was surrounded and clubbed until he threw up his hands and surrendered, when he was brought here and placed in his old quarters at the prison.

A MILWAUKEE woman has smoked the same pipe for thirteen years, and the other girls are competing with her.

NEW BRIGHTON.

Operations of the Women's Temperance Organization—Business and Finances.

Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Gazette.

NEW BRIGHTON, Pa., Dec. 23, 1874.

The Ladies and Temperance.

It is not known to many of your readers that we have a Women's Temperance Organization here. It embraces a number of our most energetic ladies. During the fall and Winter they have been holding their meetings quietly but regularly. That they have been efficient the proceedings of the recent term of our County Court will show. They arrested three or four parties for violating the local option law, and all were convicted but one. Judge Hice is receiving many commendations from the law and order loving of the country. During the progress of the trials the ladies suffered many indignities. In the court room unobserved by the court, yet in the face of the ladies, some of these desperate characters would pass the flask from one to the other.

At the hotel where many of the ladies were at dinner, they were observed to take out the bottle and pour its contents into their tea or coffee. There is an evident attempt on the part of the whisky interest to bring into contempt the law in this county, and thus prepare the way for its repeal, but the people are convinced of this one thing, that this law is more generally observed than any license law they have ever had or possibly could have. And it will doubtless be the political decapitation of our representatives if they allow its repeal at the session of the coming Legislature.

Business and Finances.

All the manufactories are running as usual for this season of the year. We hear of no cutting down. We learn that the Beaver Falls nearly all the companies have cut down the laborers of all classes about fifteen per cent. They have accepted the reduction quietly and most of the works are running. The question of a new Town House is reopened. It promises to be lively. Perhaps all think we need a new one, but some will ask is it safe or best to proceed now considering the unsettled financial policy of the Government? Is this a proper time to make extensive moneyed adventures? And then again there are very many who think the county seat should now be removed to New Brighton or Rochester. Either of these points is quite a considerable to the largest part of the population of the county, hence they are opposed to expending any more money at its present location.

Who can furnish the panicea that will heal the wound received by the panic?

Panic is from Pan, a heathen god, part man and part beast. And what is good for the man is not good for the beast; hence the difficulty in effecting the cure. "A well correct diagnosis is half the cure," have we found out the half of the remedy? We admit that to us this is the easiest half. And there are some in our valley whose plans are at least worthy of consideration.

The following we find in the last number of the Beaver Valley *News*, and the intelligent and respectable character of the contributor entities it to more than a local notice:

Voters see to what injustice you are subjected. Under a system of cunningly devised laws the National Banks, composed of a few of the people, borrow of the nation, the whole people, over three hundred and fifty millions of dollars without interest, and are paid interest on the security they deposit for the loan, out of the taxes paid into the Public Treasury. What is the remedy? Return to the banks their securities and a return of the National Bank Notes. Create three hundred and fifty millions of Greenbacks and with them buy Government bonds. This will save the people or tax payers many millions yearly, and will give to the country the same balance of currency as it has now. Repeal all laws creating or sustaining banks, have no money but National greenbacks, and then let banking be "as free as brick making," and let them be conducted under the law of partnership.

Money is "plenty." Yes, with stock brokers, bankers, and non-producing money manipulators, but with artisans, mechanics, manufacturers, working men, and the large class who produce the wealth of the country it is scarce, even with real estate as security.

If I deposit a one thousand dollar mortgage in a bank, and obtain from the bank nine hundred dollars, does the bank pay me interest on my mortgage? No, but are sure to charge me 10 per cent. for the nine hundred. SILVAN.

The Insufficiency of Our Agricultural Production.

No. 2.

To the Editors of the Pittsburgh Gazette:

Having shown the great decrease in our agricultural products, I now turn to an examination of its causes.

1. The demands of the civil war lessened the number of laborers upon the farm, and creating a heavy demand for agricultural products, lessened the numbers of farm stock. Labor was disorganized in the South. Still the five years of peace before the census of 1870 gave much time in which to overcome these causes of lessened production.

But, indirectly, the war and its consequences, such as creating a distaste to labor, and a belief, from extravagant expenditures, that there were easier modes of accumulating wealth than by the slow earnings of farm labor, that labor has been greatly lessened. The war has likewise changed our great national debt from a domestic to a foreign one, and in the process of this change we ran a career of prodigacy that has no parallel in history. Our Sabbath worship degenerated to a criminal display of fashions, as costly as vain, the influences of which extended to the farm.

2. One of the most striking results of our vast railroad systems has been the accumulation of population in towns and cities, and the avocations that belong to them.

I have not a copy of the census reports of 1870 to cite statistics to show the exact of this effect. But I have seen some returns of western counties with which I am familiar, and the increase of their population is not on the farm, but in their towns or cities.

3. We have but to go to our agricultural Fairs to see that productive labor on the farm has given place to the non-productive. Everywhere horse-racing has become their leading feature. Excitement, not the dissemination of useful knowledge, is their purpose. And where there are fast racing horses, there are fast men, and fast men are non-producers. In my working visit to Indiana I attended a county Fair, at which a premium of $240 was given for the raising of a small balloon. And the premium list of the vegetable and flower divisions were offered to the amount of $15 each, whilst those in the horse-racing division were $2,000. A city, near by, pours out its tens of thousands to Barnum's circus, but it cannot sustain an Art Gallery, or a Horticultural and Agricultural Association, or an Exposition of the industrial avocations; not even an Agricultural or Horticultural Department in any of its daily or weekly papers. That city is Pittsburgh.

4. If agriculture is the basis of all other industries, it is a basis is hewn from them. This is seen in the vast capital centered upon the construction of our railroads, and the increase of manufactures. Lest there might be any left from these, the dead brick and mortar investments seen every where in our towns and cities, consume more than is left, for all of these anticipate the earnings of future years bytheir present indebtedness.

5. Whilst capital is drawn from the farm, neither energy nor intelligence generally has a place in its management. Alge and energetic farmers there are, most certainly, but these are the few exceptions. Our agricultural operations have not advanced beyond its old methods of getting crops at the expense of the soil. So much of it has been exhausted, that cereals can no longer be grown with profit, and hence the fields are given to a pasturage, which, if little grass is produced, it does not demand labor, and its meagre crop may be attributed to unpropitious seasons. Here, when a boy, the wheat harvests were heavy and other cereals were as largely produced. Now our one straw paper mill cannot procure straw enough for its wants; its entire dependence is on the baled straw from more western districts, perhaps from the spring wheat region of the Northwest. The cattle fattened here differ from the West. A man, in packing hogs for sale, is not unfrequently disposed of. Mr. Whitney in his last speech compared the 760,000,000 dollars of taxation with the whole assessed valuation of the country around them; and the wheat fields, about ten acres to every three hundred of improved land, were as unpromising as their cultivation was negligent.

The value of the product of our manufactories in 1860 was $1,885,861,676; in 1870, $4,232,325,493, an increase of about 125 per cent.

The legitimate consequences of this neglect of agriculture, and this undue expansion of manufactures, railroad investments, dead brick and mortar extravagance, bolstered up by a still more inflated credit, are upon us. L. B.

MONONGAHELA CITY.

Scalding Feed.

It would be very advisable during the Winter months to cut the hay or fodder fed to cows, and after mixing the meal, or shorts, to be fed with it, to scald the whole with boiling water in a feed box or barrel. It should be covered closely with a lid or thick cloth, and allowed to cool down to a moderate warmth before feeding it. If the feed for 10 or 12 head is thus prepared, a 10-bushel box or chest would be large enough to scald the feed in, and that quantity of feed, closely covered, would take 12 hours to cool down sufficiently to be fed. More feed thus prepared would be eaten than of dry feed, and it would be more digestible. Each cow should have at each feed a bushel of cut hay with one quart of meal, and half an ounce of salt.

SECOND EDITION

FROM WASHINGTON.

New Hampshire Politics.

The Poland "Press Gag" Law.

Another District Ring Job.

Special to the Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, December 24, 1874.

New Hampshire Politics.

New Hampshire men are preparing for the forthcoming election, having held several conferences. Senator Wadleigh and C. F. Conant, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, have already left to consult with friends respecting the action of the convention which meets on January 8th. The friends of General McCutchins, the unsuccessful candidate for Governor last year, are urging his claims this year, but there is an earnest desire to harmonize all personal differences, and to put forth a man who will bring out the strongest vote. It now seems very likely that McCutchins will be renominated. Parker, the only Democratic Representative, has gone home to secure a renomination, but it seems certain that the Democrats of his district, the third, will choose some abler and stronger man, while the Republicans feel confident of carrying the district against any Democratic nominee.

Arkansas.

The Arkansas case has been under consideration before the investigating committee for some time past, and will be reported to Congress early in January. A majority of the committee, it is understood, will report in favor of Brooks.

The Poland Gag Law.

There is a strong under-curr-nt of opposition to the repeal of the Poland Press-gag-law by any modification of it favorable to the freedom of the press. Quite a considerable number of officials here of both political parties are of the opinion that the press already has too much liberty, but do not dare to say so. They will, however, work in various ways to prevent any modification of the law in question, but without showing their hands.

Another District Ring Job.

Another District ring job has been introduced in the House in the shape of "A bill to provide for confirming land titles in the District of Columbia."

It allows the alleged owner to bring a bill or petition in the Supreme Court of the District, and there make good his title as against the District, and if he fails to make out such title, upon certain conditions specified in the bill. A large number of small property owners have been unable to pay the enormous special and general taxes levied by the District ring, and their houses have been sold at tax sale. The brokers seek by this bill to have their "clouded titles" quietly confirmed by court as though they were actual defendants in suits. DIAMOND.

WASHINGTON, December 24, 1874.

The Black Hills.

Secretary Delano has written a letter to the Secretary of War, in which he says: "The Black Hills country is secured by treaty to the Sioux Indians, and I respectfully request that the most effective measures within the power of the War Department may be adopted towards all persons making encroachments upon said territory, and that all intruders be pursued, overtaken and expelled from it."

Railroads and Transportation—Two Historic Characters—A Prophetic Memorial to the Twenty-ninth Congress—Bills Before Congress, Etc.

Special Correspondence Pittsburgh Gazette.

WASHINGTON, December 24, 1874.

"Memorial of A. Whitney, praying a grant of land to enable him to construct a railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific Ocean." Such a superscription on a public document in this year of our Lord, 1874, attracts no more attention than did Andrew Johnson's vetoes after he got his veto machine fairly to running. Every second carpet-bag which the black porters lug upstairs in the Washington hotels contains memorials from a yard to a league in length, praying for land grants or railroad corporative seals. And the railroads are to run anywhere, lengthwise, or diagonalwise the continent—men will build roads now directly through to China or up to the moon if Congress will give them authority to organize a company, grant them will lands or guarantee interest on their bonds. But when the Secretary of the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Congress read the memorial of Asa Whitney, of New York, asking aid to construct a railroad from Lake Michigan to the Pacific Ocean, you can well imagine how Col. Tom Corwin, of the Committee on Public Lands, cocked his ear and opened his eyes, and how the papers of the day heralded it in big head lines or sneeringly disposed of Mr. Whitney down in an obscure corner. But that memorial became the watchword on the tongues of the people till the rails were laid between the lake and the ocean and the engines of commerce whistled their victorious chorus at Ogden.

When Mr. Whitney modestly handed his memorial to his Senatorial friend, he had $50,000 in gold in bank, his heart was full of courage and hope, and he was in the rising tide of reputation as an importer. He had befriended A. T. Stewart in his early struggles. Just before the great fire in New York in 1835 he had closed his business with a fine estate of $700,000, but he was a loser in that great disaster, and soon after went to China as a supercargo and then to England and the continent. On his home voyage he conceived the trans-continental railway. He had studied European transportation, and the relative position of the United States with the trade of China, India, the islands of the ocean, and that of Europe. When on the great deep the solution of the great problem by which his country could avail itself of its manifest advantages burst upon his mind. When the

Silver Spike

of triumph was driven in 1869 and the commercial men of the Pacific and the Atlantic were exchanging exultations, the name of Whitney was not mentioned. Even his intimate friends knew not where he was. He had plead at the door of Congress till his means were all gone, and in despair he quietly retired and his name and memorial were forgotten. A Philadelphia friend whom he had aided years before, gave him employment as a clerk, which, with economy, possessed of two or three thousand dollars again, Mr. Whitney bought a small farm, out from Washington, near what is now the Soldiers' Home, and there he made himself happy again in a plain tasteful home until the day of his death at the ripe old age of seventy-six. But he was never seen at the Capitol, and rarely in the city from the day he ceased pressing his great plan before Congress.

The Memorial

is pregnant with prophesy and calculation the correctness of which cannot be ridiculed when we consider the lack of information on every hand and the period of our National progress. It was written before a rail was laid west of New York, and five months before Fremont had entered California, and when Oregon territory was all we owned on the distant coast. The telegraph had barely got into operation and we numbered not 20,000,000 people, and had built only 5,000 miles of railroad. The aid asked and the plan proposed in the memorial was hardly time. A grant of land sixty miles in width from Lake Michigan to the Pacific Ocean to furnish by sale and settlement the means to construct a railroad to connect the above points. Mr. Whitney asked for no bonds, nor one guarantee of interest on any bonds, nor the outlay of scarcely a dollar of public money. The land was to be sold and title given under the direction of Congress as fast as the road could be built, and that the settlers could pay for a great portion of their farms by working on the road. He laid great stress on the political importance of the road, showing, as has been so often repeated since, how it would unite us as a people, securing, as he believed, a communication with the grand centres of the country year the year round, remotest boundaries, north and south, east and west, in four days, and communication between the coasts in eight days, which then required six months overland by water. "A cargo of tea," said the enthusiastic memorialist, "from China may then be delivered in any of our Atlantic cities in thirty days, and in London or Liverpool in less than forty-five days." The road "must revolutionize the entire commerce of the world, placing us directly in the centre of all; **** and morally it will be the means of civilizing and christianizing all mankind." He calculated the cost of building the road in a "good, safe, and substantial manner" at about $50,000,000, and that it would cost $15,000,000 more to keep it in operation until it secured a self sustaining business.

Mr. Whitney had presented a similar memorial to the preceding Congress, but the committee to whom it was referred recommended it "to the deliberate attention of Congress at a period of greater leisure." The next summer preceding his second memorial he made a survey of about 700 miles of the proposed route, at his own expense, crossing the Mississippi and penetrating the wild regions beyond 500 miles, when he touched the Mississippi. The latter he descended in a canoe for many miles until he reached steamboat navigation. But his labors were unavailing so far as immediate success was concerned. The great scheme was to be solved and applied by other hands. It is a singular fact, however, that Sidney Breese, the chairman of the Committee on Public Lands, to which the memorial was referred, and who for years was the Chief Justice of Illinois, adopted, as one of the originators of the great Illinois Central road, many of the unfortunate memorialist's ideas. Bright, of Indiana, who was expelled from Congress for disloyalty during the war, was also a member of the committee. Next to Whitney is the name of

Lorenzo Sherwood

in the history of railways and transportation. He, too, dropped out of activity suddenly. Death, however, terminated his career, and not despair. He, too, was a Judge in Texas, and on the breaking out of the rebellion was forced to leave, and stopped in Washington mostly thereafter. At President Grant's first inauguration he had occasion to go to New York, and while there he suddenly became ill and died. His admirable plan for a system of national railways for freighting purposes exclusively, and making them free to the use of any persons who might desire and possessed the means, to run a train of cars over them, is now so well known that it need not be presented here. He first advocated the plan in Galveston in 1853, and though from that day to this it has been favored by the public men of both parties, Congress has not ventured an experiment.

This Congress

has accomplished nothing in furtherance of that supreme governing agency, cheap transportation, beyond the publication of the Senate's able report on that subject, and the remaining two months are likely to be utterly fruitless. There is a bushel of bills lying before the Committees on Railways and Canals to the value of millions for the establishment of roads, corporations and canals, but almost none of them are of value so far as reducing freight tariffs are concerned. They all look to the aggrandizement of individuals and corporations interested.

The House Committee Bills.

The sub-committee appointed by the House to examine and report the amount of work before them and what matters shall be considered, will have a dreary job. Out of a dusty pile of fifty-nine bills it will give a list of some of the most significant. And first should be mentioned that authorizing the construction of a double track through the Pan Handle route from New York to Omaha, known as the Continental railroad. This scheme has many friends and has been pressed upon the committee with great force. Gen. Hurlbutt's bill for the construction of the Portland, Dalles & Salt Lake Railroad binds the Government to pay the interest on $8,000 per mile, the whole distance from Ogden or Kelt, the point from which it will start from the Union and Central Pacific road, to its intersection with the Columbia river, being 500 miles.

The committee will report to the House the bill to aid the building of the Washington, Cincinnati and St. Louis railway. The Government is asked to guarantee the 5 per cent. interest on $15,000 a mile through mountainous regions, and on $10,000 the rest of the way.

There is a bill bearing the name of Mr. Bell, of Georgia, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to endorse certificates upon first mortgage bonds payable in forty years, of the Atlantic and Great Western Canal Company, the bonds not to exceed $80,000 per mile.

General Shanks is pushing a bill authorizing the survey for a ship canal from Lake Michigan to Cairo. A survey is asked for a ship canal from the Ohio to the seaboard, by way of the Monongahela. This great undertaking will hardly be ordered by this Congress.

A delegation has just been here from Rock Island and Davenport, seeking assistance to construct a canal from Hennepin, Ills., to the Mississippi, and thus make a complete water connection of Lake Michigan and the Mississippi.

Colonel Vance asks the Government to expend $20,000 in opening the French Broad river, in North Carolina. The river is a favorite among Carolinians on account of its scenery.

The St. Philip Ship Canal bill was passed by the House, but will, very likely, die in the pigeon holes of the Senate committee. Jas. B. Eads, the St. Louis bridge engineer, will continue his efforts to have the Government open the mouth of the Mississippi by the jetty system, which was so ably advocated by Eads, in the House, of Memphis, last session. The House committee is made up of men wide read and of much public service. Sherwood, of Ohio, is an old editor. Ross, of New York, is familiar with the railways and canals of his great State. Taylor, of Pennsylvania, is a master of surveying. Gen. Hurlbut, of Illinois, is never idle, and Wolfe, of Indiana, is as useful as average Democrats. DIAMOND.

NEW ORLEANS.

Louisiana Returning Board—Resignation of a Member—The final Decision of the Board, as Given by a Democratic Paper.

NEW ORLEANS, December 24.—Mr. Arroyo to-day sent in his resignation as a member, in which he says: "I am impelled to adopt my present course by the rulings of the board in the last few days in returning to the Legislature, as elected, members who were unmistakably defeated, rulings which to my mind are so clearly partisan and unjust, defrauding the people of Louisiana of their chosen representatives, that my self-respect will not allow me long or to any extent to remain a board." Arroyo's resignation was accepted, and the board went into executive session.

A Bulletin extra has the following regarding the Returning Board. The Board decided upon the returns of the parishes of Claiborne, Caddo, Lafourche, Lincoln, Rapides and St. Martin. The parishes of Grant, Winn, Bienville and Desoto were referred to the Legislature. The latter cases may be adjusted. The representation as returned by the Board now stands: Democrats 52, and Republicans 54, making a majority of two for the latter. Although, it will be observed, that neither Democrat has a quorum in the House, it is somewhat curious that the Board did not take unto themselves a sufficient number with which to organize the Legislature—that is, a quorum. However, it suited the purposes of Wells and Anderson to make the returns as above, and doubtless they knew that there are three among the returned sailing under Conservative colors, who, upon an emergency, will offer allegiance to the Kellogg regime and repudiate utterly the cause of the people. All the parishes before the board on Thursday were largely Democratic, but by extensive "doctoring" and manipulation they were returned as follows: Eight three Republicans; Lincoln, one Republican; Rapides, Republican; Claiborne, two Democrats; St. Martin, five Democrats; Lafourche, two Democrats; Beauville, Grant, Winn and Desola are thrown out, making as a representation in the House 52 Democrats and 54 Republicans—throwing out of the above named parishes several polls. In Caddo seven were thrown out to overcome the Democratic vote in the other parishes. Moncure is beaten by nearly 2,000 votes.

Farmers' Ice Houses.

There is no more pleasant adjunct to the farm during the heat of summer than plenty of good ice. Permanent structures for keeping this commodity are now so common that any country carpenter knows how to build one. But many persons put off the building of this necessary convenience to the household until it is too late, and so the want of it is felt every summer and the erection of the permanent building is put off every fall until it is again too late. If so, put up a temporary ice pen this season, and be prepared to build the permanent house next year at your leisure. Select a place in the shade as near you as convenient, and shaded if possible. Have the drainage perfect. Level the surface, and cover it a foot or more with orchard grass, or better, flax straw, then make a pen of rails, or some other suitable material, so that the stack of ice will not be more than twelve feet square. The larger, the better it will keep. Cut the cakes of uniform size, and as perfect as possible; pack closely together, filling the interstices with pounded ice. Around the outside between the ice and rails, two feet wide, pack with straw thoroughly trodden down, but do not mix the straw with the ice. Cover all with straw two feet thick, and over all a good roof of boards, letting the ends project well over the sides.

Now, if in the spring, you set posts on the outside, with something within them to keep the straw from falling away from the place with straw, you will have a cheap structure that will keep ice perfect. Flax straw, or flax trash, is the best non-conducting material that you can get for this purpose. With the structure an ice box will be more necessary than with a permanent one, since it is not advisable to open an ice stack oftener than is absolutely necessary. Make an ice box with double sides, and six inches space for saw dust or tan bark between. Fix a pipe in the bottom for drainage which may run into pail or pan. Have the inside box not less than 2 by 2 feet, and twenty inches high, with an inside cover next the ice. This will give you room for a cake of ice of at least one hundred pounds, and still leave room for meats, milk, etc. If you have a full supply of ice for one summer it will thereafter become one of the necessaries without which a family would feel lost. —*Western Rural.*

ADDITIONAL RIVER NEWS.

(Special Dispatches to the Pittsburgh Gazette.)

BROWNSVILLE, PA., December 23.

River falling; 11 feet. Weather cloudy; thermometer 36.

OIL CITY, PA., December 24.

River 16 inches; falling. Weather cold. Snowing a little.

CINCINNATI, December 24.—River 18 feet 3 inches. Weather clear. Arrived—Andes, Wheeling; Nashville, Tennessee River. Departed—R. S. Turner, Memphis; Juniata, Pittsburgh.

EVANSVILLE, December 24.—Weather clear; mercury 37 to 52. River risen 3-10 inches; 9 4-10 feet on the gauge. Down—Etna, midnight; Dick Johnson, 4 A. M.; Little Condor and barges, 6; Bowling Green, 10; Morning Star, 3:30. Up—Idlewild, 6 A. M.; George Roberts, 8; Cherokee, 11. Business fair. The Cherokee had over six hundred tons and discharged largely here.

LOUISVILLE, December 24.—River rising fast, with 7 feet 6 inches in canal and 5 feet 6 inches in Indiana chute. Arrived—Shippers' Own and Tom Sherlock, Cincinnati; J. S. Parker, Memphis; Lioness and tow, Cairo. Departed—Shippers' Own, Evansville; Sherlock, New Orleans; Parker, Cincinnati. Weather clear and cold.

ST. LOUIS, December 24.—Arrived—Jasper, Cairo; Capitol City, Vicksburg; Tom Means, Ohio River. Departed—Nellie Peck, Vicksburg; St. Joseph, Memphis; Wild Duck, Cairo; Hobbs, Wheeling; Swift, Cincinnati. River stationary. Clear and pleasant.

MEMPHIS, December 24.—The river is stationary. Weather clear and pleasant. Arrived—Arlington, Cincinnati. Departed—Savannah, St. Louis; Longworth and Baum, Cincinnati; City of Quincy and Belle Lee, New Orleans.

CAIRO, December 24.—Arrived—A. J. Baker, St. Louis,

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1874.

BONDS at Frankfort 98.

PETROLEUM at Antwerp 27½f.

GOLD closed in New York yesterday at 111¼.

WE SEE the name of General George W. Cass mentioned as likely to be a candidate for United States Senator, if the way opens up. He is a most excellent man personally, but we presume he really prefers to remain as President of the Northern Pacific Railroad, rather than go to the Senate.

WE ARE likely, ere long, to have enough lines west, from this city, to answer every purpose, so far as western travel is concerned. The new Boston line west, that is being projected, has a proposition to connect with this city, while the Baltimore & Ohio road will ultimately include Pittsburgh within the range of its western line.

SOUTH CAROLINA expended, last year, $291,179, for public printing, or almost as much as was appropriated to the public schools. Governor Chamberlain pointed out this large expense as something to be rectified, an abuse. The fact is, South Carolina has been very loosely governed, and if the present Governor realizes his promises made, it will be greatly improved during the current term.

DESPITE her depressed condition, Paris showed recently, on the occasion of the visit of the Russian Empress, with her sons, that it can entertain as brilliantly as in the bright days of the Empire. The visit of the Empress was interpreted as indicating a feeling of sympathy toward France, on the part of the Russian royal family, and was appreciated accordingly. The Marshal-President gave every attention to his distinguished guest, and the city was lavish in its bestowment of honors.

THE *Post*, "with full knowledge of the value of language," affirms that there is no combination between the Allegheny and Philadelphia Democratic members of the Legislature to control nominations. All this is doubtless true,—there is merely an understanding, not formal, but real. They cannot get along without it, and if the *Post* would openly admit and justify the fact, rather than to seemingly deny it, it would keep affairs in better position. Of course, all this is of the nature of a Ring, and Philadelphia and Allegheny will undoubtedly try to control the organization of the House, say what they will. What the country members will say, or how they will meet this arrangement, is another matter. We feel quite interested in this phase of the matter, and all the more when our contemporary seems so anxious to keep all quiet till the trap springs.

IN its merely social aspects, this day will be one of hilarious joy. From present indications the weather will be favorable, and the conditions entirely agreeable to a day of uninterrupted pleasure. The family gatherings, with a proper infusion of the young element, will give full opportunity for all to be young again—an advantage that will be gladly enjoyed. Whether the weird tales of Santa Claus are fully accepted or not, or the doubt is present whether there is not a closer origin for all the presents and good things provided, there will be no stint in the enjoyment of them. The GAZETTE, with its weight of years, can assume to take a very friendly interest in all these festive pleasures. We have admonished and preached on so many such occasions, to the great-grandfathers of those who cluster around the hearthstone, that we claim the right to sympathize with the sports of the youngsters of to-day. Be pure, and right, and good, but enjoy the good presents and happy reunions of the day. And if parents and friends of mature years will unbend their dignity, and join in the sports of the children, the mellowing influence of those sports will bring a kindly spirit that will do good, and not harm.

WE ARE quite relieved to be assured that Hon. W. D. Kelly, of this State, consents to remain within the limits of the Republican party. We never exactly believed he would not remain with us, but we saw so many statements to that effect that we were saddened. In the main we agree with Mr. Kelly in political sentiment, but there is one point where we disagree. We do not think he is as great a man as he thinks himself to be. This, however, is a small matter, as a man has the undoubted right to entertain a lofty opinion of himself, although we do not think it entirely shrewd. Mr. Kelly has a great desire to impress on the country a policy that shall in all its details, be his. This is narrow. Such a privilege is not, in this country, often accorded to any man. Our laws, and policies are the fruit of the suggestions and thinkings of many minds, and contain concessions, usually, to the views predominant in various parts of the country. It is the part of true greatness to realize and concede this fact. If Mr. Kelly would appreciate this, he would really increase his usefulness, save himself from criticism, and contribute to the advantage of his party. But really, no one is very greatly concerned whether he remains with the party or leaves it, and no one will be affected by that event half so much as himself.

THE CHRIST DAY.

Without going into the question of the origin of the Christmas day festivals, or of the chronological accuracy of the time selected for the observance, it remains true that our Christmas celebrations are in remembrance of the one whose coming is lovingly regarded by the entire Christian world. They commemorate an event historically interesting, and one that has exerted great power over the destinies of men. Embittered discussions have been had as to the accuracy of the day computed for His birth; even months of difference existing between those who reason from one standpoint or other. But none deny the actual birth of the God-man. Controversy has also arisen on the development of festal observances—many of them being referred back to early times, and are claimed as having been originally paid to the gods of mythological days, or the heathen deities. We may admit all this, and say that our observances are but adaptations of heathen ceremonies; but all this does not change or obscure the great central fact that Christ was born, and that our Christmas ceremonies are commemorative of that event. Whether original or adapted, does not change the central fact.

We have no festivals in the entire year that are looked forward to with greater earnestness than is this. It is a time only for bright, joyous thoughts, and kind, generous deeds. Whether, occasionally, these are carried to burdensome extremes, we do not pause to inquire—the spirit that animates them, and they generally excellent purposes, are what we inquire into. The home gatherings, the loving preparation for kindly surprises, the joyous opening of the day, amid happy felicitations, and with the bestowal of carefully selected presents, all serve to make it a period of peculiarly agreeable remembrances. These, too, have a larger and better purpose. Friendships thus cemented, and reunions thus happified, serve to maintain fraternity for days and months. We have known where old animosities have been smoothed away, by the kindly influences of the Christmas feast. Thus it is a day of peace-making, in which friendships are cemented, and love and gratitude are intensified. The song of the angels, that His coming would bring "peace on earth, and good will to men," is thus proven prophetic, and is being strangely fulfilled. No man can estimate the power for peace and kindliness exerted by a simple Christmas day.

This occasion comes to us, too, brightened with other thoughts. The mission of the Christ was one of universal peace. The prophecies of olden time, of a period when the sword should be turned into a plowshare, and the spear into a pruning hook, and the nations should be His—so that there should be none left to say to another, "Knowest thou the Lord," but all shall know him from the least to the greatest, referred to the results of His coming. The influence of His teachings was to permeate all systems, until at last his doctrines should predominate, and a spirit of universal fraternity be engendered. How strangely this is working out! Who, a quarter of a century ago, would have predicted the fraternity existing among the denominations of Christians to-day. How the old combative spirit has yielded, and what earnestness in co-working for good there is. The children in Sunday Schools are largely taught under the same system, and with the same lessons, whatever their denomination of Church. Notice, too, the earnest efforts being made, particularly in Europe, to avert all occasion for war. The fruition of that idea has not yet come, but the fact that the nations are earnestly seeking to develop a plan that will do away with the necessity for standing armies and all occasion for war is a significant event. Their motives may not be the highest, but the fact is nevertheless evident. And the world *must* come to this. If nothing else, the pressure of debt will drive it to it. Modern wars mean large amounts of money, and these debt. A considerable increase to the debt of any of the great powers of Europe will bankrupt them. Hence they must have peace, and some system of international arbitration will be yet devised that will bring about universal peace. This aside, and public sentiment has been educated up to the standard of peacefulness,—and wars are no longer popular. This latter feature is a direct outgrowth of Christian teaching, as the monetary fact may be of Divine administration. It is a point eminently worth a careful research,—whether the progress of the race in Christian civilization has not done much toward making wars expensive, hence debt-producing, hence nearly impossible.

All this aside, and there has been healthful growth of fraternal feeling between the nations generally. The Oriental nations have thrown off their exclusiveness, and entered the family of nations, and are zealously cultivating the most amicable relations. The successive influences which have drawn them to us, have in them large hope of future progress on their part. Our superiority in mechanical contrivances, our advance in science and the practical arts, first attracted them, and inspired a desire for closer intimacies. The fact that we were so far ahead in utilitarian matters led them to think our system of education better than theirs. Their sons and daughters are being educated here to a considerable extent, as teachers. Having gone this far, the next step will be to accept our religion,—substituting the Christ for Brahma, Vishnu, and other objects of worship and our bible for the Confucian and other teachings. Thus, by means and influences that none could have foretold, and possibly by methods that are still hidden, the world has been drawn, and will be attracted into a closer fraternity, as the years flow on.

There is one home reflection that should largely possess us this day. The spirit of the Saviour's coming was that of benevolence. "He gave himself for us." No other fact, or thought, or theory, will account for His coming. Grant that a purpose animated Him, and that purpose was one of broad and generous benevolence. It becomes us to imitate this motive. Not for many years has Christmas come to so many poverty-stricken, cheerless homes, as it does to-day. Hundreds and thousands, that never before knew suffering, feel it now. The Christmas tree, the plentiful supply of presents, simple or beautiful, as the case may have been, the abundant feast,—all the bright, happy accompaniments of the day, in the past, are absent this year. And there are others always poor, and to them the same hard lot as of other years, intensified, perhaps, is present again. There are children who cannot realize why some shall be favored, while their hungry eyes ever look and are never gladdened. There are homes, cheerless at any time, but doubly cheerless to-day, because the sunshine is so much the more bright in other homes, while not a single ray comes to relieve their cheerless gloom. It is a day when charity should be gladsome, and benevolence should be more than usually bright of countenance. Try to-day the luxury of giving,—not a sum of money to some one, who shall apply it,—but go yourself to a poverty-stricken home, put your money into substantial gifts, and receive a blessing and witness sunshine, that will cheer your own Christmas feast, and form one of the sunniest memories of a cheerful Christian day.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE SCOTTISH PHILOSOPHY. Biographical, Expository and Critical, from Hutcheson to Hamilton. By James McCosh, LL.D., D.D., President of the College of New Jersey. New York: Carter & Bros.

President McCosh, of Princeton College, is a Scotchman, with all the love of that strong race, for his native land, and for those of its scholars who have pursued the same studies as have engaged his mind. Before he had left Belfast, he had attained international celebrity as a writer on metaphysics, and this reputation has been increased by his brilliant career in this country. Called from a prominent professorship in Queen's College, Belfast, to the Presidency of Princeton, he came, and entered at a ripe age, on the duties of the position. His labors there have largely occupied his attention, and he has only been able to publish works of more importance until this, his "Labor of love," which we judge, has been prepared in part, during his vacation trip to his native land.

The work presents, in the guise of a series of biographical sketches of the great writers of philosophy in Scotland, a corrective of the materialistic psychology, resulting, the author thinks, from the reading of Coleridge, Kant, Cousin, Hegel, Comte, and Berkeley. The "sober philosophy of Scotland," is presented by one "in thorough sympathy with the characteristic sentiments" of his native land, in a manner that is very charming. The history of Scottish philosophy is part and parcel with the history of the country, and is so treated in this work. He claims, as a characteristic of this philosophy, that it proceeds on the method of observation, employing self consciousness as the instrument or medium of observation, and thus reaches after human truth. Any who have read or studied Dugald Stewart's writings will realize the force of these statements. The growth of philosophy, from the seventeenth century on, next engages his attention, and the history is like a romance. Those who know the introspective features of the Scotch mind will realize in this chapter the reason for that national peculiarity. Then follows a sketch of Lord Shaftesbury, born in 1671, who exercised the most influence on the Scotch philosophic school of Scotland. To those not familiar with the style of Dr. McCosh, we may say that he is a singularly clear, ever luminous writer, and while the research necessarily does not admit of biographical sketches of the many persons whose biographies are written, it is done in a manner that is very clear and entertaining. As an entertainment for mature minds, and as a means of cultivating the love of philosophic study in the young, we commend this above any work we have seen.

THE QUEEN OF THE KITCHEN. A Collection of "Old Maryland" Family Recipes for Cooking. Containing Over One Thousand Practical and Useful Recipes, all of which have been tried and approved, and been in use for many years. By Miss Tyson. One volume, duodecimo, bound in morocco cloth. Price $1.75. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

This is an excellent volume to have in the kitchen or wherever cooking is done. It contains many different styles of cookery, which alone strongly commends itself, for as every housekeeper knows, the great art of cooking is to combine variety with simplicity, and that it is chiefly in the manner of preparing food that makes it palatable. It is not overloaded with recipes for fanciful dishes which few people ever see, and which none but a highly educated cook can make but it meets the practical wants of the general public. We have, therefore, no hesitation in recommending "The Queen of the Kitchen." It is sold by all booksellers.

MALCOLM. A Romance. By George McDonald. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. For sale in Pittsburgh by R. S. Davis & Co., 175 Liberty street.

A Scotch story, dealing with lords and ladies, and with humble folk as well. Malcolm, the hero, is the offspring of a secret marriage between a nobleman and a woman of lower rank. The hero's identity is long concealed, but at last he succeeds to the nobleman's estate. There are the same characteristics of character sketching, of philosophizings, and of dainty descriptive writing which abound in all of McDonald's works. The story is interesting both in plot and development, and is a fine illustration of McDonald's power with the pen.

THE BABES IN THE WOODS; A Tragic Comedy. By James De Mille, author of "The Dodge Club," &c. Boston: Wm. F. Gill & Co.

This is a book of rollicking humor and adventure, that reminds the reader of the matchless grace and charm of Lever's writings. It purports to give the story of the wanderings of a rich English family—of the "money aristocracy class"—in Italy. There is mixed up with it a melange of love and laughable scenes, and the characters are portrayed with a skill scarcely inferior to the great Irish romancer.

CHILDHOOD'S SONGS. By Lucy Larcom. Illustrated. Published by James R. Osgood & Co., and for sale in Pittsburgh by J. R. Weldin & Co., Wood street.

This beautiful volume contains many choice little poems—not the namby-pamby nursery rhymes that are printed especially for children. They are charming little stories, to be told by loving mothers to open-eyed, listening children, and they may be listened to and read with pleasure, as the writer says in her preface, "by every one who loves children."

THE KING OF NO-LAND. By B. L. Farjeon, author of "Blade-o'-Grass," "Joshua Marvel," &c. New York: Harper & Bros. For sales at the bookstores.

Mr. B. L. Farjeon is no stranger to the readers of romance, having contributed quite a number of stories to literature, all of which indicated constructive and graphic ability. "The King of No-Land" may be ranked as one of his very best and most pleasing.

EBON AND GOLD. A Novel. By "C. L. M." New York: G. W. Carleton & Co. For sale in Pittsburgh by J. R. Weldin & Co., Wood street.

This is a very well written novel by a lady who modestly conceals her name under the initials "C. L. M." It is very prettily dedicated to "my dear husband, whose loving kindness has made me forget life's chou in its gold." It is full of kindly sentiment, and can hardly fail to please the reader.

THROUGH THICK AND THIN; or, "La Guerre Du Nizam." By Joseph Mery. Translated from the French by O. Vibeur. New York: G. W. Carleton & Co. For sale in Pittsburgh by J. R. Weldin & Co., Wood street.

A love story of the most approved order. None but houris for women and demigods for men move through its pages. The scene is laid in India; wealth and nobility are the surroundings; three marriages the finale.

CLEFTS IN THE ROCK; or, the Believer's Grounds of Confidence in Christ. By J. R. Macduff, D. D. Published by Robert Carter & Bros.

The devotional will find in this volume Scriptural truths and words of cheer to help them through the "darker shadows" of life.

NEVADA'S GREAT CAVE.

A Monster Cavern in the Humboldt Range—Underground Chambers that Measure Forty by Sixty Feet—Bats that Scream Like Wild-cats—The Cave Explored the Distance of a Mile.

A correspondent of the Winnemucca *Silver State* writes to that journal a description of a mammoth cave which has recently been discovered in the Humboldt range of mountains:

The entrance to the cavern is located about three miles northeast from Star City, and about 2,000 feet higher than the town, in the Humboldt range, eight miles from the Central Pacific Railroad. It has been known to the Indians perhaps for ages, and they say that many years ago it afforded a passage through the mountain to a point opposite where the Humboldt House now stands. A Pine legend says that it has been

THE HOME OF THE EVIL SPIRIT

for many generations, and the bravest warrior of the tribe will not venture near its mouth for any purpose whatever. They say that before the white man came among them they put bad Indians in the cave to appease the wrath and hunger of the spirit that inhabited it. The last Indian put in there was not as bad as represented, and was guided to the opening on the other side by the spirit. The cave was partially explored in 1868 by Captain Prescott, James A. Banks (who was since killed by the Indians near Camp Scott), and A. J. Simmons (now an Indian Agent in Montana Territory). Some time ago a party of four, of which your correspondent was one, proceeded to explore the cave. We had heard a great deal about it, and our curiosities led to see a little of it ourselves. On arriving at the place we discovered, to our surprise, that the entrance was fifteen feet above the ground rock on which we stood. The rock rises almost perpendicularly one hundred and fifty feet above the mouth and for several hundred feet on each side. Having been provided with ropes, one was thrown over a point of rock which projects over the mouth of the cavern, by means of which the entrance was gained. Lighting our pitch-pine torches, we proceeded cautiously in single file about one hundred feet in what appeared like a large mining tunnel. The ceiling was from ten to fifteen feet high in this distance, after which it narrowed down to a crack just large enough to get through. Suddenly we came to a square jump-off or perpendicular drop of thirty feet. Again the rope was brought into requisition, and by means of it the bottom was reached. Immediately under the road we had traversed we found

LARGE CHAMBERS,

the largest of which I should judge to be forty feet square and sixty feet high, the entrance to which was scarcely large enough to crawl through. Here in this chamber we noticed a verification of the adage that "constant dropping will wear away a stone." In several places drops of water from the ceiling, which continually fell in one place—there being no air current to dislodge it—had worn holes in the solid flinty floor from five to seven inches deep. We explored the cave to a distance of a mile from the entrance, and our lights burning well, showed that the cavern is well ventilated. We did not find a passage through, though we traveled for three hours and a half by the watch, and arrived at the entrance very much fatigued. We started two bats at about three-fourths of a mile from the entrance, and they screamed like wild cats when they saw our lights.

Santa Claus and His Partners.

The New York *Evening Post* says one of the inducements urged by Senator Sherman for the speedy passage of the Finance bill by the Senate was "that it would be a happy Christmas gift to the people of the United States." The partnership between Santa Claus and the Sherman family is not a new one. On November 3, 1864, General Sherman—the Senator's brother—then on his "march to the sea," sent a message from Kingston, Ga., to Captain Pennock, of the Navy, saying:

"In a few days I will be off for salt water, and hope to meet my old friend, D. D. Porter, again. Will you be kind enough to write him and tell him to look out for me about Christmas from Hilton Head to Savannah?"

And on December 22, 1874, just ten years ago yesterday, the General sent to President Lincoln his memorable dispatch:

"I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with one hundred and fifty heavy guns, and plenty of ammunition, and also about twenty-five bales of cotton.

"W. T. SHERMAN, Major General.

Beecher's Pronunciamento.

The bugle-blast of Mr. Beecher comes to the world through the *Christian Union*, clear, loud, and defiant. The accused clergyman says that he intends to meet his villifiers face to face, and dispose of their charges at once and forever. He deprecates any palliation of the alleged crime, but will not have his friends plead that allowance shall be made for temptation and that the crime would be fenfold worse, if to his guilt were added the monstrous perjury that his statements under oath would convey, if they were false. There will be no settlement on his side "on any basis, except the unequivocal retraction of the false charge which consummates the foundation of the suit." These are brave words, which the whole public will be glad to hear. Mr. Beecher's innate generosity has hitherto made him too easy with his foes, but now that he perceives that his character and usefulness are at stake, he is roused and determined. Let him make short work with his detractors. Morally, they are dead already. The law will bury them out of sight forever.—*N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.*

THE BLESSED DAY.

What shall little children bring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
What shall little children bring
On Christmas Day in the morning?

This shall little children bring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day:
Love and joy for Christ, their king,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

What shall little children sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day?
What shall little children sing
On Christmas Day in the morning?

This grand old carol shall they sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day:
With all their hearts, their offering bring
On Christmas Day in the morning.—

For Christ was born in Bethlehem
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
For Christ was born in Bethlehem
On Christmas Day, in the morning.

"And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning.

"And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the angels in heaven shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning.

"And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning.

"Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day;
Then let us all rejoice amain
On Christmas Day in the morning."
—*M. M. D., in St. Nicholas for January.*

A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

BY A "MINISTER AT LARGE."

The fire was out; the room was cold;
The things about were poor and old;
The floor was bare, though neat and clean;
The hand of care was plainly seen,
Making the best of the meagre store
Left unsold from days of yore.

Over the mantel a picture hung;
The central figure was fair and young—
A mother, holding upon her knee
A darling baby, that turned to see
A manly face, blue eyed and mild,
Looking down in love on mother and child.

That baby is now a child of seven,
Who is sleeping in the old arm-chair;
The father for years has been in Heaven;
And the mother's brown and glossy hair
Is streaked with the gray of early sorrow;
She is out in the snow, and facing the wind,
Hoping some bit of work to find,
To earn the bread for the coming morrow.

The frost on the panes is gathering fast;
The windows clatter beneath the blast;
The twilight darkens the chilly room,
But still the mother does not come.

The child in the chair still quietly sleeps;
And over her face a sweet smile creeps
As the Christmas bell from a neighboring steeple
Rings out its call to the waiting people,
To come and keep the Christmas Eve,
And gifts from the Christmas-tree receive.

Each note of that sweet-toned Christmas bell
Comes to the ear of little Nell
Like an angel's voice, and seems to sing,
"Coming, coming, on golden wing,
A gift from the Christmas-tree to bring."

Just then she woke, for her mother's tread,
Heavy and slow, she heard on the stair;
With bounding feet, and cheek aglow,
She sprang from her dreamy cradle chair,
And opened the door, where covered with snow
Pale and chilled, with despairing look,
As if of earth and heaven forsook,
The mother stood, and could only say,
"Dear Nell, after trying so hard all day,
I have neither work nor bread."

"But mother, dear mother," cried little Nell,
"Somebody's coming, I know full well;
For just as the Christmas bell was ringing,
I heard an angel sweetly singing,
'Coming, coming, on golden wing,
A gift from the Christmas-tree to bring.'
And, mother, the angel's face so fair,
Looked just like papa hanging there;
Do you think that he
The angel can be,
Coming to bring from Christmas-tree
Something for you and something for me?"

"Poor child, your father is dead and gone;
And we are left in the world *alone*.
Nobody cares for the perishing poor,
Though the wolf of hunger be at the door.
He told me that the Christmas-tree
Rings not for you, rings not for me;
We have not a crumb in the house to eat:
I've fed all day on hope and sleet:
But my little Nell
I wish we were dead."

"But an *angel*, mother, the truth must tell,
And would he have said to little Nell,
And told it, too, with the Christmas bell,
That he was coming to you and me,
With a real gift from the Christmas-tree,
If he didn't mean to come right here,
And bring us something, mother dear?"
No angel to this the mother gave,
For hunger and cold and weariness
Had struck to her heart a chill of the grave:
Her soul was in frozen dreariness.

She threw her waterproof into a chair,
She shook the snow from her matted hair,
Raked the embers, and on them threw
Was the last of her little stock of coal.

She lighted her fire, and bit by bit,
With paper and chips she tended it;
But, though it blazed, the terrible chill
Which had struck to heart remain there
still—
The chill of soul, which nought can move
But the glow and warmth of human love.

"Get warm, my child, and go to bed,"
In dreary tones the mother said.
"But mother, I cannot, for hear, hear,
Somebody's coming: hark! don't you hear?"
And holy joy her pulses stirred
As a step upon the stair was heard.

A tap on the door. "I told you so!"
Cried Nell, as from the street below
A woman entered—"I told you so!
The angel said so, and angels know."
The stranger shook from her dress the snow,
And gaily said to the little one, "No!"

"For angels, you know, have wings; but I
Have to go on my feet, and cannot fly,
Although I am sure it would be very nice
To fly with such a bright load as this."

Then to the mother the angel said,
"Let me tell you how my feet were led
On a night so wild
To you and your child.
A little while since, an hour or more,
As I went to my home, I passed your door.
I say not *mine*, for I know not why,
I turned to look; your face so pale,
Of such deep anguish told the tale,
As if to hope you had said 'Good by.'
Still I passed on, but when the bell
Rang out, its peals of Christ to tell,
A voice spoke out which I had to hear:
'Bear to the needy help and cheer,
Herald the advent of the holy
By caring for the poor and lowly.'"

On the table white and neat,
For little Nell lay bread and meat,
Toothsome cake, and comfit sweet;
For the mother's thirsting soul
Words that bade the hot tears roll,
Down the white and shrunken cheek—
Soon the angel women speak,
When a message from above
Sends them on a work of love.

Then, as arose the angel guest,
Into the mother's hand she pressed
A present with a look which told
Of something richer far than gold,
Saying, "Good night! be of good cheer;
Trust in the Lord, and never fear,
Remembering it is the night
Reveals the stars in glory bright."

A holy light in Nell's face shone
Soon as the messenger was gone,
She sprang upon her mother's knee,
And clasping her neck in ecstasy,
"Mother, we are not left alone,"
She said in sweet and tender tone:
"Oh! don't you think it was father dear"
Or may be it was the Christ child good,
Who told the lady to seek us here,
And bring us help and food."

"God knows, my child, I cannot tell;
But when on the stair that footstep fell,
I thought of father coming home,
As he was wont, when work was done;
And oh! then she clasped her hand and smiled,
I thought of Mary and her child;
Then, when she turned and spoke to me,
It seemed like Jesus on the sea,
Hushing the stormy waves of ill,
Saying to Peter, 'Peace, be still.'
O Nell! how could I ever have said,
'I wish that you and I were dead'
But in that dark of blank despair
I had no heart for hope or prayer.
Not till the human angel came,
Did faith and hope revive again.
Surely the Comforter draws nigh
Through tender human sympathy.
And never again shall thought of mine
Distrust the Providence divine."
—*From "Old and New" for January.*

Why Farming Does Not Pay.

There appears to be an impression fast gaining among farmers that "Farming does not pay." The western farmers lay the cause of their troubles at the door of the railroads and the implement makers, and dairymen of the East complain that the prices for dairy are too low. But the question may be asked whether the difficulty does not lie partly in other channels—whether the extravagant and wasteful style of living which many farmers have of late adopted is not the cause of small profits realized from the farm? If farmers spend much of the time away from home, intrusting farm work to hired labor; if they indulge in expensive equipages and endeavor to make the income from a $10,000 or $20,000 farm pay for a style of living hardly afforded by those who have accumulated large wealth, disaster, sooner or later, must be expected. I know of several instances of farmers and dairymen, during the past year, who have been sold out by the sheriff, and in every case the trouble came from inattention to business and indulgence in numerous expenditures that the prudent and economical farmer avoids. Indeed, wastefulness, and the "living beyond one's means," is a fault pervading all classes of society, and this often leads to disaffection and a want of faith in one's business.—*Moore's Rural New Yorker.*

To Make a Nest Egg.

A nest egg that cannot be broken by frost or accident, and that cannot be mistaken for a fresh egg, may be made by breaking a small hole in each end of a hen's egg and blowing out the contents. The shell is then filled with plaster of Paris, mixed with water to the consistency of cream. The plaster soon gets solid, and the egg cannot be distinguished by the hen from other eggs, but the weight easily prevents it from being mistaken for a sound one. The plaster is such as is used for hard finishing, and may be had of any mason.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

SAN FRANCISCO'S paupers each cost the city fifteen and a half cents per day.

SINCE the new divorce law was passed in Oregon, the population has increased fifty per cent.

THE deepest hole in the world is said to be an artesian well at Potsdam, Me., which goes down 5,000.

AN Oakland (Cal.) lady has made $60,000 during the past year by jobbing mining stocks. She's married.

TWO American war vessels have arrived at Hong Kong with additional survivors of the burned steamship Japan.

A CHURCH in Chicago, it is asserted, presents every new member with an elegant chromo; and the rush is tremendous.

IT turns out that only fifteen members of Glendenning's church asked the derelict reverend to continue his ministrations.

PETER GUSSOLTS, of Jack county, Texas, who is now living with his VIth wife, has LIV. children and is LXXIX. years old.

A CHICAGO lady who five years ago was married in a $1,500 dress, now officiates behind the counter of a retail grocery shop.

THE boiler of an engine on Foster's wharf, in Boston, exploded on Thursday morning, killing one man and injuring three others.

JAMES WALKER, D. D., formerly President of Harvard College, died on Wednesday at his residence in Cambridge, Mass., aged eighty.

JOHN LEPRAD, of Todd county, Ky., is never happy when Christmas comes, because he has seventy-five nephews and nieces to give presents to.

THE London *Times* says one hundred and thirty-two new railroad bills are waiting to come before Parliament when it opens. Many are for city passenger railroads.

A SPRINGFIELD man recently took a bath in the dark. He managed well enough, only he got hold of a piece of stove-blacking instead of soap, with marked results.

ON Thursday morning Ben Scott met John Ransom (both colored) at the Wolf river bridge, two miles north of Memphis, and asked him for some money he owed him. Ransom jumped from his wagon and began to belabor Scott with his wagon whip, when Scott drew a pistol and shot Ransom through the body, killing him instantly. Scott is in jail.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, in his recent address at the 250th anniversary of the town of Weymouth, Mass., says of his own grandmother, the wife of John Adams: "It is a tradition of the daughter of Parson Smith that with her own hands she scrubbed the floor of her bed-room the afternoon before her eldest son, John Quincy Adams, was born. There was no nonsense at least about that people; every one had work to do, and no one, gentle or simple, was above his work."

THE Salem *Post* of the 21st inst., offers to any of its subscribers who will solve the following puzzle an order for $3 worth of goods, or to any one not a subscriber, a year's subscription:

PRSVRYPRFCTMN,
VRKPTHSPRCPTSTN.

The above letters were written over the Ten Commandments in a Welch church, and remained there a whole century before they were interpreted. By the use of a vowel they form a two line verse.

IN Memphis, on Thursday two, negroes entered the clothing store of Hamner, and while one was examining a suit of clothes, the other, named Brooks, attempted to steal a pair of pants and run away with them. Hamner, discovering the theft, seized Brooks, who drew a razor and cut Hamner across the cheek, barely missing the jugular vein, and then across the hand. Simon Hamner, coming to the assistance of his brother, was cut severely on the arm and hand by Brooks. The elder Hamner drew a pistol and shot Brooks in the groin, and both jumped on him and beat him until he surrendered, when he was carried to the station-house.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
No. 61 Fourth Ave., Pittsburgh.
CHARTERED IN 1862.
Assets January 1, 1873, - - - - $778,351.56
OPEN DAILY from 9 to 4 o'clock, and SATURDAY EVENING, from May 1st to November 1st, from 7 to 9 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of 6 per cent., computed from the 1st and 15th of each month, and if not withdrawn, compounds semi-annually, in January and July. Books of By-Laws, &c., furnished at the office.
Board of Managers—George A. Berry, President; John Scott, Jas. Park, jr., Vice Presidents; D. E. McKinley, Secretary and Treasurer.
A. E. Bradley, J. B. Bell, Wm. K. Nimick, John S. Dilworth, F. Rahm, G. Polmanshoe, Joshua Rhodes, S. H. Hartman, Robert C. Schmertz, Christian Heyl.
Solicitor—John H. Bailey.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Joseph Horne & Co.,
107 AND 109
PENN AVENUE.
OFFER A
Full Assortment of Goods
IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.
Useful and Substantial Articles
FOR
HOLIDAY GIFTS!
Men's Dressing Gowns and Smoking Jackets.
Men's Fine White Dress Shirts.
New Styles Men's Fancy Dress Shirts.
Windsor Scarfs and Neckwear of every description at greatly reduced prices.
Silk and Opera Hose, Mufflers.
WHITE AND COLORED
SILK HANDKERCHIEFS
Plain Hemmed and Hemstitched Handkerchiefs.
Initial Handkerchiefs.
Fine Fancy Half Hose.
Fine Suspenders.
Spiral Studs, Sleeve Buttons, Scarf Pins, etc.
FINE SILK UMBRELLAS,
With handles of entirely New Design.
Linen Paper Collars and Cuffs.
Fancy Striped and Plain Cashmere Half-Hose.
GLOVES.
Ladies' Cloth Gloves and Gauntlets.
Ladies' Calf Gauntlets.
Plush Lined Silk Gloves.
Children's Cloth Gloves.
Knit Mittens and Infantines.
Ladies' Kid Gloves, 4 buttons at $1.25 per pair.
Men's Cloth Gloves.
Men's Fine Dress Silk Gloves.
Men's Lined Kid Gloves, 1 and 2 Button.
Men's Fur Top Gloves.
Men's Calf and Dog Skin Gloves.
Seal Gauntlets.
Otter and Beaver Fur Gauntlets.
Alaska and Buck Gauntlets and Gloves.
Kid Gloves for Ladies, 1 to 6 buttons.
Kid Gloves for Misses, 1 and 2 buttons.
Kid Gloves for Men, 1 and 2 buttons.
Extra bargains in Ladies' and Children's
Hemstitched Handkerchiefs.
Hemstitched, all Linen Handkerchiefs at 10c.
Embroidered Handkerchiefs.
Colored and Bordered Handkerchiefs.
Initial Handkerchiefs (new) at 20c up.
Mourning Handkerchiefs.
Embroidered Linen Sets at 50c.
Linen Collars and Cuffs.
Damask Tabling, Doyles, Napkins and Towels.
Damask Covers and Napkins to match.
Fine Colored Bordered Towels.
Fine Bleached Huck Towels.
Heavy Unbleached Huck Towels.
Turkey Red Cloths and Napkins.
Grand Reduction of 33 to 50 Per Cent.
On Point, Point Applique, Duchesse and Valenciennes Lace Handkerchiefs, Collars and Barbes.
Antique Lace Fichus and Mats.
Applique Fichus, Cushion Covers and Mats.
Black Lace Veils and Veiling Net.
Embroidered Slipper Patterns.
Cushion and Ottoman Covers.
Foot Rests and Slipper Cases.
Towel Rack Strips, Chair Stripes.
Woolen Scarfs, Hoods and Breakfast Shawls.
Ladies' & Misses' Knit Jackets.
FELT SKIRTS.
Quilted Silk, Alpaca and Sateen Skirts.
Plain Dark Blues, Browns and Fancy Striped Cashmere Hosiery.
Ladies' Silk Neckerchiefs from 50c up.
Windsor and Brocade Ties, from 25c up.
New Styles of Plaid and Fancy Ties,
Fine Fans, Portmonnaies, Jet Jewelry.
Combs, Hair Brushes, etc., etc.
Entire stock of Ladies' Cloth Cloaks, at a great reduction in price.
A few choice Imported Garments to close out at less than cost of importation.
Misses' Cloth Jackets at reduced prices.
Ladies' Seal Sacques, in medium and finest qualities.
Seal Muffs, Boas and Caps.
Children's White Cony Sacques, Caps and Muffs
Store open Wednesday and Thursday Evenings of this Week until 9 o'clock.
RETAIL STORES,
Nos. 107 and 109 Penn Avenue.

DRY GOODS, TRIMMINGS.
FOR CHRISTMAS
WILLIAM SEMPLE,
NOS. 165, 167 & 169 FEDERAL STREET,
ALLEGHENY CITY, PA.,
NOW OFFERS DECIDEDLY THE
LARGEST STOCK! Greatest Variety! LOWEST PRICES!
House Refilled with New Goods to Make up for the Immense Sales of Last Week
FOR LADIES AND MISSES,
NEW DRESS GOODS
FROM 12½c YARD UPWARD.
Extra bargains in Dress Goods.
Fine Dress Goods, all kinds.
Black Alpacas and Cashmeres.
Colored Cashmeres and Merinos.
Children's Dress Goods.
Mourning Dress Goods.
FOR THE CHILDREN
OF ALL AGES,
An almost endless variety of amusing and instructive
TOYS!
BOOKS FOR OLD AND YOUNG
At prices far below what they can be bought at elsewhere.
Toys of all kinds.
Hobby Horses, Wagons, Sleds, &c.
Dolls of every description.
Games, Building Blocks, Chairs, &c.
Magic Lanterns, Musical Instruments, &c.
Mechanical Toys, all kinds.
Regular Sewing Machines, at 30 and 50c.
Telegraphic Instruments full working

FINANCIAL.

FRANKLIN SAVINGS FUND
AND
SAFE DEPOSIT COMPANY,
Cor. Seventh Avenue and Smithfield Street.

Incorporated by Legislature of Pennsylvania.

CAPITAL, - - - - - - $250,000.

Interest allowed on deposits. Short Loans on Valuable Property, Real or Personal. Discounts daily.

Open daily from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M., and on Saturdays from 7 to 9 P. M.

JOSEPH M. GAZZAM, President.
GEO. M. REED, Vice President.
J. W. H. COCHRANE, Cashier.

DIRECTORS.

J. M. Gazzam, Andrew J. Lea,
J. F. Smith, George M. Reed,
Frank Kohne,
John D. MacConnell, Solicitor.

PRAETSCH, STROUS & CO.,
BANKERS AND BROKERS,
No. 58 FOURTH AVENUE,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Deposits received and interest allowed on daily balances.

Collections made on all points of the United States.

We buy and sell Stocks, Bonds and Government Securities on Commission.

Mortgages and Commercial Paper
A SPECIALTY.

Passage Tickets to and from Europe and Sight Drafts on England, Ireland and Scotland at lowest rates.

SHOE AND LEATHER BANK,
14 Smithfield Street,
PITTSBURGH, PA.

CAPITAL, - - - - - - $200,000.

D. R. DAVIDSON, President.
JOHN D. FRASER, Cashier.

Deposits received and 6 per cent. interest allowed Time Deposits. Particular attention given to collections and proceeds promptly remitted.

GERMAN NATIONAL BANK,
Cor. Wood St. and Sixth Ave.

CAPITAL, - - - - - - $250,000.
SURPLUS, - - - - - - 127,000.

Interest allowed on Time Deposits.

Exchange on Germany, France, England and Switzerland at lowest rates. Collections promptly made and proceeds remitted.

DIRECTORS—A. Groetzinger, J. F. Havekotte, W. F. Lang, J. C. Dickson, E. H. Meyers, Jos. Lang, Paul Hogg, Chas. Seibert, C. Haberdick, A. Groetzinger, President.
Joseph Laurant, Cashier.

INTERNATIONAL BANK,
Cor. Liberty and Market Sts.

CAPITAL.....$200,000.

PAYS INTEREST ON DEPOSITS.

5 per cent. per annum upon daily balances—from inactive non-borrowing accounts—payable on demand.

6 per cent. per annum on special deposits for 60 days and upwards. Special agreements relating to interest made. Notes and Bills purchased.

W. H. MECHLING, President.
THOMAS HOWE, Vice President.
F. E. MOORE, Cashier.

DAILY GAZETTE.

FINANCIAL.

Latest Advices Concerning Money and Stock Matters.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE,
FRIDAY, December 25, 1874.

The banks were extremely slack as regards discount demands yesterday. The current of business was, of course, toward Christmas purchases. Other than this, very little is occurring. The Government awarded $500,000 at New York yesterday at 111.63 to 111.65. The amount of bullion gone into the Bank of England yesterday was £274,000. The proportion of the bank reserve to liability, which last week was 45½ per cent., is 44⅛ per cent.

A strange circumstance seemed to be agitating the minds of speculators in New York and elsewhere, and create great doubt about the *bona fide* character of large Wall street transactions of late. The first of these is that the large reported exports of specie last week have not made anything like the corresponding drain on the stock of specie in the banks that was confidently expected by everybody, and people are in doubt as to which is "bogus"—the reported exports of specie, or the amount reported to be held in the banks at the close of last week. The New York *Bulletin*, of Monday, figures up the gold exports as follows: "There was shipped from Friday, Dec. 11, to Thursday, Dec. 18, $3,202,000 gold coin. In addition, $1,000,000 was taken out of the New York banks and put into the Treasury for California account. The customs receipts for the week were $1,433,000. (As we leave out last Saturday's customs receipts we take into account to-day's receipts.) This makes a total of $5,725,000 gold taken out of the New York banks during the week, which the bank statement covers. The total paid out by the Treasury during that time for interest was 5-20 bonds, $2,039,787, to which should be added the $500,000 sold Thursday, which gives the total of $2,539,287, which we assume all went into the banks. Subtracting this from the $5,725,000, we get have a loss by bullion banks of $3,185,713. The statement, instead of showing any such loss, reports a decrease of $209,300, and with the average a falling one. It will thus be seen that there was good reason for surprise at this part of the bank statement. Taking the figures as reported, however, we have a loss in total reserves of $2,137,900, and in net reserves of $1,426,850, the banks now having 37,642,250 lawful money above the legal requirements."

—The bank note redemption feature of the national banking system, in the exchanging of new for old notes, is a desirable thing. Since the act of 20 went into operation twenty million dollars of worn-out bank notes have been delivered to the Controller for destruction. We regret that the national banks have the option of receiving in exchange for these worn-out notes bills of a smaller denomination than $5. The amount of legal tender notes below the denomination of five dollars is six time as much as the total amount of fives issued by the banks. If we are ever so fortunate as to see the legal tender promises of the Government worth par in gold, it will be desirable to withdraw all notes of less than $5, in order that their place may be supplied with coin. As things are now it is perhaps not unlikely that the legal tender notes less than $5 will be displaced by national bank notes.

—The report of the business of the Erie Railway for the year ending September 30, shows that while the company has earned eighteen millions and a half during the year, its working expenses have been thirteen millions and a half, leaving five millions of net revenue. Four millions of that sum have been applied to the payment of rentals, interest on mortgages, taxes, &c., leaving about a million of dollars, most of which has been used for the reduction of the floating debt. Provision for dividends there is none. At the end of September the amount of the floating debt is said to have been less than a million and a half. The English accountants found that at the end of September, 1873, the amount of that debt was five millions and a half.

Luther S. Kaufman, Broker, No. 96 Fourth Avenue, furnishes the following quotations of bonds and stocks from the latest advices by telegraph:

	Opened,	Closed
Gold	111⅜	111⅜
U. S. Sixes—1861—coupons	121⅛	121⅜
5-20 1862	113⅜	113⅝
" 1864	115⅛	115⅜
" 1865	117¼	117⅜
" 1865 new	120	120⅛
" 1867	121⅜	121⅝
" 1868—coupons	121	121⅜
10-40's	114	114⅜
Currency 6's	117⅜	117⅝
New 5 per cents	113⅝	113⅞
10-40's—coupons	114⅜	114⅝
RAILWAYS.		
New York Central	100⅜	
Erie	26⅜	
L. C.	98½	
C. C. & I. C.	9	
St. Paul	36½	35⅝
Do. Pref.		56¾
Michigan Southern	80⅜	80⅝
Do. Central		82
North Western Common	45⅜	45½
Do. Pref.		68
Rock Island		101⅜
Cleveland & Pittsburgh		88
Pacific Mail	37	36⅞
Western Union Telegraph	79⅜	79⅝
Ohio & Mississippi	24⅝	24¾
Union Pacific	35	34⅞
Toledo & Wabash	23⅜	23½
Harlem		116
Adams Express		62
American Express		62
U. S. Express		48
W., Fargo & Co. Express		82½
Fort Wayne		93
Hannibal & St. Joseph		14
Panama		114

Luther S. Kaufman furnishes the following quotations of active stock on the Philadelphia Stock Board to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Penna Central	52⅜	
" scrip	105¾	
Reading	55	55⅜
United Cos of N. J.	127½	
Oil Creek	8¾	8½
Lehigh Valley	61⅜	62
Central Transportation	44	
Empire Do		55
A. V. R. R. 7-30	93¾	
P. C. & St. L. 7's	76⅜	

NEW YORK, December 24, 1874.

Money 3@4, prime mercantile paper 5@6.

Sterling 485¼@485⅝ for sixty days and 489¼@490 for sight. The imports of dry goods for the week were $813,471. Gold opened at 111⅜, and closed at 111⅜. The borrowing rates were 1-64@1-32 per diem, and 1@1½ per annum. Loansalso were made flat. The Treasury disbursements amounted to $1,221,000. The Government awarded $500,000 to-day at 111.63 to 111.65. The specie shipments to-day were $1,194,534, of which $100,000 is gold coin. The clearings were $30,000,000. Government bonds were firm. State bonds were quiet. Railroad mortgages are firm. The Governing Committee of the Stock Exchange have declared that all stock certificates must be endorsed by some responsible bank note company to be admitted to the list of securities called.

The failure of Stimson, Marquand & Co., woollen dealers on Grand street, is announced. They have small liabilities, and expect to pay sixty cents on the dollar. The Stock and Gold Exchange adjourned over till Saturday.

Stocks were dull and heavy, with Western Union the leading feature, which declined from 79¾ to 78¾. The sales of this stock on sellers' option continued, and the difference was wider than usual, being ⅞ to 1¼. At one time the stock sold at 77⅛, seller sixty, when the price in the regular way was 78¾. Pacific Mail was slightly extended by all who enjoyed his acquaintance; he was about 22 or 23 years of age, and leaves a wife and four children. It is only a few days since we noticed the death of Pat McFillan, also a Philadelphia cattle dealer.

PITTSBURGH PETROLEUM MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE,
THURSDAY, Dec. 24, 1874.

The Crude market was reported steady to-day, but, as compared with yesterday, prices were without quotable change; sales for immediate shipment at 92¾c at Parker. Refined quiet but unchanged; quoted at 8@9-16 on cars here; 11⅜ delivered in Baltimore and 11¾ in Philadelphia. There are but few sellers at quotations, which it is claimed barely cover actual cost.

We learn from New York that some refiners, in preference to selling at current rates, have chartered room to the Continent, to the extent of about one thousand barrels, where they believe they will realize better figures. The indications are that refiners will have to advance prices if they want oil, as it is not to be expected that refiners can work for nothing.

The *Petroleum Reporter*, a copy of which we have received, contains the November report of the Pennsylvania Oil Fields. We extract a few items as follows: "Number of barrels of oil on hand at the wells at the close of the month, 1,240,000; number of barrels produced during the month, 881,000; average ₱ day for the month of 30 days, 28,702 bbls; number of wells producing, 2,220; number of wells drilling, 57; number of barrels of oil in iron tanks and pipe lines, 3,149,455; number of barrels held by refiners, 150,390; total number of barrels held in the producing region, 3,449,845. Following is a comparison of the October and November reports:

	October.	November.
Stock on hand at the wells	147,900	150,000
Production for the month	919,739	881,000
Daily Production	29,669	28,702
Producing Wells	2,270	2,220
Drilling Wells	82	57
Stock in iron tanks and pipe lines	2,806,702	3,149,455
Stock held by refiners	1,345,720	1,459,390
Total stock	3,134,902	3,449,845
Total shipments	843,241	946,417

The Barrel market continues quiet and prices remain unchanged; countries, $1.20; city make, $1.30@1.35.

Butter and Eggs in New York.

NEW YORK, December 23.—Butter—Receipts for the week, 14,781 pkgs; do. last week, 23,879 do., same week last year, 29,133 do. A falling off in the receipts do not bolster the market to any perceptible degree. The fact is, there is no confidence in medium quality that weighs down the market, and it is likely to be neglected until prices are made more popular for buyers who use medium to fine in the regular way. Fine fresh State tubs, or for that matter in the lack of fine pails, fancy lack ones are in demand at 40@42c; for dairies 38@40c; fair to good grades. Western butter is not much considered outside of rolls; those are easier.

Eggs—Receipts for the week, 4,328 bbls.; do. last week, 5,384 do.; same week last year, 5,824 do. Stock here is light, and the supply is not very large; we are reliably informed that there were sales made at an advance of ½ a cent, and we presume that there was no advance of half a cent all around. The quality, as a rule, was common, considerably below what it has been for some time past; and while there were but few that could be called unsaleable, the supply of prime shipping stock was very small. Considerably short of the demand, and shippers were forced to take a commoner grade of cattle; in other words, they paid about the same prices for common and good that they did for prime. Supplies of cattle last week, showing an advance of 50 to 75c per cent. In order to afford the reader an idea as regards prices, we append a few sales as reported:

No.	Average Weight	Price
64	1,310	6 85
18	1,150	5 80
19	1,200	5 90
14	1,260	6 15
30	1,255	6 15
17	1,300	6 37
17	1,300	6 75
17	1,600	7 12½
17	1,216	6 25
2	1,660	7 50
31	1,190	6 10
33	1,200	6 15
34	1,300	6 17½

HOGS.

The receipts during the past 24 hours, although not large, was in excess of the demand, and notwithstanding the more favorable weather, together with the more encouraging advices from other markets, the day was one little inquiry for hogs. There was some little inquiry for New York, but Yorkers were also in excess of the demand, and make yearly settlements. There is reason to believe that there was less business done this year than last, also diminished profits. As goods of all kinds had to be sold very close, but we do not think there were as many bad debts, as our merchants entered more thoroughly into the spirit of the speci, refusing to sell to doubtful or long-winded buyers, and in this particular the most of them are better off than they were at the close of 1873.

Coffee is still reported quiet but steady, and New Orleans molasses is strong, and holders generally are confident about values. Sugar is also firm, while refined goods continue quiet and unchanged.

SUGARS.			
Crushed	11¾	Standard B	10⅜
Granulated	11⅛	Ex C Standard	10¼
Powdered	11⅛	Ex C Standard	9¾@10⅛
Standard A	10⅝	Porto Rico	8⅝@ 9¼
N. O. Sugar	8¾@ 9¼		
SYRUPS.			
Sugar house	35@40	Sugar Drips	60@65
Refinery	55	White Drips	60@70
Silver Drips	55	Extra Golden	70@75
COFFEES.			
Rio Good	20 @21	Fancy Roasted	28
Rio Prime	22 @23	Roasted Java	25
Rio Fancy	24 @25	Roasted Java	40
Roasted Rio	28		

HOMINY—$1.75@$2 ₱ bbl.

HAY—The market continues quiet, but with light receipts and a fair consumptive demand, prices are still maintained, $20@$22 being accordingly for loose, from country wagons, $23@30.

MILL FEED—Is reported steady at $1.60@1.70 for bran, and $1.60@1.65 for Middlings.

ONIONS—$2@$2.50 ₱ bush.

PEAS—$1.40@$1.75 ₱ bush.

POULTRY—There was a very fair demand yesterday and to-day, and prices were rather higher. Dressed Chickens, 12@13c ₱ lb; Live Turkeys, 13@14. Live Chickens dull, 75@90c ₱ pair; live Turkeys, 12@13c ₱ lb.

POTATOES—In fair demand, with sales of Peach Blows, out of store, in a jobbing way, at 85@$1 ₱ bushel and other kinds at 75@85c, as to quality.

PROVISIONS—The market for the hog product continues fairly active for this season of year, but there has been no quotable change in prices recently. Following are the ruling rates.

Hams, sugar-cured	13½	Lard, in tierces	9
Shoulders	8	Do., in 5 lb. tins	10
Breakfast Bacon	13	Do., in 10 lb. tins	10
Dried Beef	12	Do., in 20 lb. tins	10
Extra Mess Pork	16	Do., in kits	10
Mess Pork	15	Do., 5 lb. do	11
Hams, canvassed	14	Do., 10 lb. do	11
Do., plain	13	Do., 20 lb. do	11
Shoulders	10	Ham Sausage	10
Side Bacon	14	Bologna Sausage	10
Clear Sides	14	Lard oil, No. 1	90
Mess Pork, new	15	Lard oil, strained	85

EGGS—Fresh in fair demand, with sales at 28@30c. Pickled dull and nominal at 20@22.

LARD—Held in the abstract, but insufficiently active to be reported by dealers, who claim that in addition to a limited demand there is scarcely a seller. Quoted at 9@9½c ₱ lb for wheel barrels, 9½@9¾ for Wisconsin, and 9¾@9¾ for Minnesota. Leaf, $5.50@$6.50 ₱ bbl, as to quality, $6.50@$6.75 for amber and white. Rye Flour, $5.50@5.75.

GRAIN—There is no improvement to note in the grain trade, nor has there been for the past few days, during the next week or ten days; business is always dull about the winding up of the year, as dealers are anxious to get their stocks in as little stocks as possible. Wheat continues quiet and unchanged. Penna and Ohio red, $1.15@1.18; do, amber and white, $1.21@1.23. The Oil market continues dull, with no quotable change in prices, 62@63. Some dealers are holding prime white at 64c, and 64½, but we are reliably informed that it is difficult to realize more than 63. Corn is also dull, with more offering than there is a demand for; prices range about the same, 70@75—the last sales of car reported were at 73@74, and shelled is offering at 78, free in store. Rye is quiet and unchanged at $1.10@1.12. Nothing doing in Barley here; No. 2 Spring quoted at $1.26@1.29 in Chicago.

GROCERIES—Grocery trade continues dull, and our merchants generally do not expect to do much during the next few days, but take stock as possible. The wholesale trade in the line of sugars, molasses, coffees and spices will be light, having been made this forenoon within the range of the name to-day for Philadelphia hogs, and prices, as compared with yesterday, were to the buyer's favor, but this is a small item. In packages, the last quoted, 70@75—the last sales of car reported were at 73@74, and shelled is offering at 78, free in store. Rye is quiet and unchanged at $1.10@1.12. Nothing doing in Barley here; No. 2 Spring quoted at $1.26@1.29 in Chicago.

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WHISKY—Dull and weak; 97½c.

On call Board in the afternoon wheat closed firmer at 89¼@89⅝c seller January; 90½@90⅝c seller February. Corn steady and unchanged. Oats steady; seller December, 37½c; seller January, 38c. Rye nominal at 95c seller January. Barley dull and nominal at $1.25 seller January.

PROVISIONS—Pork dull and declined; $13.50 spot; $13.50@13.75 seller January. Lard dull and nominal at $12.25 spot; $13 seller January. Bulk meats dull and unchanged; shoulders 5½c; short rib middles 9½c; short clear 9¾c, all loose spot

HOME NEWS.

To-morrow's Gazette.

The GAZETTE will make its appearance to-morrow as usual. We hope advertisers, agents, carriers and newsboys will take a note of the fact, and make their arrangements accordingly.

Died at the Poor House.

Reuben Hope, the old man found in a freezing and starving condition by the poor authorities of Allegheny, in the early part of last week, and removed to the Poor House, died there yesterday, from the effects of destitution and suffering before his removal to the Poor House.

Diamond Pin and Gold Watch and Chain Stolen.

Captain Joseph Brooks, of Boston, father-in-law of Capt. E. H. Nevin, Jr., of this city, while leaving a Western avenue car on Sixth street yesterday morning, was robbed of a large diamond pin and a gold watch and chain. The pin is of old fashioned design, and contains twelve diamonds, with a stem running down, which also contains three or four diamonds. The watch is open faced and of Liverpool manufacture. The chain is of solid gold, with twisted links, and attached to it was a locket with the letter "B" inscribed on it.

The Official Vote.

The official vote in this county for Congressman from the Twenty-third District was announced yesterday, by the Judges of the Common Pleas Court, and was as follows:

Thompson	1,496
Nevin	1,015
Baillie	504

Thompson's majority over Nevin 481.

The returns from Butler county, as given elsewhere in our telegraphic columns, show that the majority for Col. Thompson in that district is 2,214. The returns, then, thus far received, give Col. Thompson a majority of 2,695, with Armstrong county to hear from officially to swell the figures.

Bill in Equity.

A bill in equity was filed in the Common Pleas Court yesterday by Samuel Richardson, executor of the will of Mary Achison, deceased, against the Citizens National Bank of Pittsburgh.

The orator sets forth, in his petition, that Mary Achison died in September, 1873, seized *inter alia* of eight shares of the stock of the Citizens National Bank; that by the authority granted him in her will he was about to sell said stock, and made application to have said shares transferred which the defendant refused, and would not permit. He therefore asks that the defendants may be required to allow such transfers and that the Court may make such orders and decrees as may be necessary from time to time until the case shall be closed.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

Handsome Gifts to Sheriff Hare and Prothonotary Kennedy.

Yesterday morning, about ten o'clock, two colored servants made their way into the office of Sheriff Hare, heavily loaded with bundles carefully wrapped *in paper*. Mr. Hare knew *nothing* of their coming, and was surprised when his attention was attracted by the opening of the articles and the beginning of a presentation speech by Capt. S. B. Cluley. At the close of the Captain's remarks, the Sheriff responded in a few fitting words, in which he expressed his gratefulness for the kind remembrance as shown by his friends. The gift consisted of a beautiful silver tea set, pickle dishes, a fruit basket, a cake basket and a soup tureen. The salver bears the following inscription:

Presented to
JOHN H. HARE,
Sheriff of Allegheny county,
By his Deputies,
December 25, 1874.

The above was a christmas gift from the deputies in Mr. Hare's office and serves as a fitting token of the high esteem which they have for their superior officer.

In the afternoon the clerical force in the Prothonotary's office served Mr. B. F. Kennedy likewise. A set corresponding almost entirely to those *given* Sheriff Hare, were placed in his office, and were presented to him, as a testimonial of the high regard which his clerks have for him.

The gift was a most elegant one, and was gratfully accepted by Mr. Kennedy who knows how to appreciate such kindnesses.

W. C. T. U.

The Fair and Festival—A Gift to the President, Mrs. Black.

The Fair and Festival of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union is meeting with abundant success—the Alliance Rooms at the corner of Sixth street and Penn avenue, being crowded every night. Last night the President of the Union, Mrs. Dr. Black, was presented with a magnificent cut glass fruit stand and a pair of boquet holders on a silver pedestal of rare and beautiful design, each piece surrounded by statuary in gold. The presentation speech was made by Mrs. Dr. Campbell, in which she spoke of Mrs. Black's social standing and wealth, which was sufficient to enable her to live in luxury and ease if she desired. She complimented her on the sacrifices she had made for the sake of humanity, and in conclusion said that in presenting her the offering of the ladies of the Union she hoped that it would serve to awaken in her mind memories of the present time, after many years had passed away. Mrs. Black in reply thanked the donors for their kindness, and accepted the gift with feelings of high regard.

At the conclusion of this part of the exercises, Rev. Mr. Dermitt made a few remarks, in which he offered words of encouragement to the ladies.

Mr. Charles Wrenzell then made a call for Mrs. Black, and when she was presented to him, he handed her twenty-five dollars as a donation to the temperance cause, for which he was thanked by the ladies. Thus far the entertainment has proven a success, and as it will be kept up until to-morrow night, ample opportunity is afforded those who may desire to attend. The rooms are open from eight o'clock in the morning to eleven at night.

TAXPAYER'S CENTRAL UNION.

The Proposed New School Law Denounced—Opposition to the Issuance of Additional City Bonds.

The meeting of the Taxpayer's Union yesterday afternoon was not a very large one, probably because it was the day before Christmas and the greater number of members were busy preparing for the universal holiday, and concocting surprises for the little ones at home. However, those on hand circled around the stove in Cole & Irwin's real estate room, in the Bank of Commerce building room, and spent half an hour or more previous to organization in discussing the new school law prepared by the Reform Association, which was in session in this city for several days, and which bill it is proposed to have passed at the ensuing session of the Legislature. Taxpayer O'Keefe read to his conferers the editorial in yesterday morning's GAZETTE, in which the work of the Association was discussed, and the tenor of the article was unanimously endorsed by all present. A running discussion was then kept up for some time, in which Messrs. Ward, Mellon, O'Keefe, Brown, King, Finley and others participated, and ridicule was heaped in unstinted measure on the new school law, which was denounced as iniquitous and tending too much toward centralization in taking power from the people and placing it in the hands of a few, who would likely be prone to use it as much for their own as the public benefit. Jobbery, the Taxpayers thought, peeped boldly out from every section of the proposed law.

The Union was finally called to order and on motion of Mr. O'Keefe, Mr. Finley was chosen to preside. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the call of Committees in regular order was dispensed with.

Judge Mellon said he felt somewhat uneasy at the prospect of an additional issue of three and a half million of city bonds to complete the new water works and for other purposes. He stated that he would not feel so much disconcerted if he felt sure the new water works were going to be of any account, but so far as he could learn they were going to prove an abortion. The Judge offered the following resolutions.

Resolved, That any further issue of city bonds would be outrage on the taxpayers, and a fraud on the purchasers of the bonds.

Resolved, That our Finance Committee be instructed to proceed without delay, by bill or otherwise, to test the legality of the city for bonds issued under the Penn avenue act, and of any other alleged indebtedness of the city, of doubtful character, and to restrain the issue of such bonds until the true financial status of the city in regard to her debts and liabilities is fully ascertained.

Resolved, That if any more city bonds are spawned, and attempted to be negotiated, notice be published in the eastern cities and wherever else they are likely to be put on the market, warning the public against their purchase.

The last resolution was withdrawn and after considerable discussion the other two were adopted.

Captain Ward submitted the following, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Inasmuch as it appears in the public press that there is a new school law prepared to be submitted at the next meeting of the Legislature, taking away the power of the people from the educational department and placing it in the hands of one man, to control the whole school fund of the State, and dictate how it shall be used and to what extent, therefore,

Resolved, That we request our members to vote against the said bill, or any other bill or amendments, removing the control of the management of the schools or the monies collected for such educational purposes, from the people.

The following, presented by Judge Mellon, was referred to a special committee consisting of Messrs. Mellon, Gallagher and Ward:

Resolved, That a committee of three, on publication, be appointed by the chair, with power, by and with the consent of the Finance Committee, to arrange for space in some newspaper to be used as an organ for the Union, and to superintend the publication of such matters as may be interesting to taxpayers.

On motion adjourned.

Christmas Presents.

American Sewing Machines for sale, cheap for holiday presents at No 1 Sixth street.

CHRISTMAS CONFLAGRATION.

Big Fire on Fourth Avenue.

The Old Mayor's Office Building Totally Destroyed—The American Garden Theatre Burned and a Keno Rank "Busted"—The Flames Originate in a Mattress Manufactory—Heavy Loss.

Shortly before twelve o'clock last night an alarm of fire was turned in from box 24, at the corner of Fifth avenue and Smithfield street, indicating that a conflagration was in progress, and before an hour had passed by the old building on Fourth avenue, familiarly known as Wilkins Hall, was in ruins, nothing left standing except the four walls. Prompt to the call all the engines in the lower part of the city were quickly at the scene and got to throwing water soon as possible, but even in that brief time the fire had gained tremendous headway, and was burning with fearful rapidity. Fifteen minutes after the first alarm another was sounded, and subsequently a third one, summoning the entire department of the city to assist in stopping the progress of the flames, which, for a time gave promise of doing a great deal more destruction than they in fact did.

HOW IT ORIGINATED.

The third story of Wilkins' Hall was used by Messrs. Roenigk & Gill for the manufacture of mattresses, &c., and that department of the building, it is said, contained a large amount of husks. From what could be learned last night the general impression seemed to be that the fire originated in these husks, and the inflammable material afforded it such generous food that it soon licked it up, and caught the woodwork. The fire commenced in such a very inaccessible place, being in the back part of the building, that it was a matter of no little difficulty to bring a stream of water to bear on it. The rear part of Wilkins' Hall is only separated by a few feet from the rear of the Central Police Station and a part of Patterson's livery stable. On the west side of the building is a high vacant lot, and extends through from Fourth avenue to Diamond alley. On the east side the burning building adjoined the rear of the houses which front on Smithfield street, about half way between Fourth avenue and Diamond alley.

GETTING TO WORK.

It was in this almost inaccessible spot that the fire commenced, and in view of the difficulty that was experienced in reaching it, the wonder is that greater damage was not done. As soon as the hose carriages arrived, lines of hose were carried through every spot that afforded access to the fire, and the throwing of water was commenced quite freely. One line was extended through a tailor store on Smithfield street, two were run through the Central Police Station, one through Patterson's livery stable, one from the top of it, four on Fourth avenue, and one or two elsewhere. For a good while the fire was confined entirely to the interior of the building and but very little could be seen of it, but the vast volumes of blinding smoke poured out, and which were driven down into the street to fill the eyes of spectators so that they could hardly see, were sufficient proof that the devouring element was doing its work. In time the flames eat their way through the wood work, and the roof falling with a crash that sent countless millions of sparks into the air and whirling over the adjoining house tops, the fire burst out on all sides, lighting up the city for a great distance in every direction. The roof being once added to the suction, and the flames rolled up into the air with ten fold intensity, and as the the floors, great beams and rafters fell one after another, burning pieces of wood were sent up and carried to the roofs of other houses, but fortunately fires were not started in other places. By one o'clock the flames had reached the part of the building abutting on Fourth avenue, where they had not before been visible, and the lines of hose there were enabled to do good execution. The interior of the edifice having been pretty thoroughly burned out by this time, the flames began to subside, and all danger to adjacent houses was past.

HOW IT WAS HANDLED.

This is the biggest fire that has occurred in Pittsburgh for a very considerable period of time, and never was one better handled. The firemen occupied the most advantageous places that could be secured, and all worked with a will. Chief White and Assistant Hamill displayed good generalship in their selections of positions, but with all they could do the occasional bursting of a section of hose would retard the work until the damage could be repaired. A notably good position was on the roof of the buildings fronting on Smithfield street, and the hose that threw water from this point right down into the fire did splendid work. The policemen also were very efficient in seconding the efforts of the firemen, but in one or two cases a little too much leniency was displayed in not arresting some characters who were offensively officious and insisted in thrusting themselves into places where they had no business.

THE DESTRUCTION.

The ravaged building was occupied by a variety of establishments in addition to that of Messrs. Roenigk & Gill, among them being the American Garden, a place of amusement, a Keno bank, and a number of other concerns. Almost everything contained in the building was destroyed, hardly an article of any value being saved. How much the loss will amount to, the writer will not attempt to estimate, but it will foot up a good many thousand dollars. Harry Martin's variety theatre is immediately adjoining, but beyond getting roughly soaked with water and possibly scorched somewhat, it was not much injured. Patterson's livery stable also escaped with a wetting.

PREPARING FOR SAFETY.

Owing to the unpleasant proximity of the fire, Captain Irwin, of the Central Police Station, made arrangements for the safety of the ten or twelve prisoners under his charge. He had them all removed from the cells in the rear of the prison and placed in apartments near the office so that in case of imminent danger they could be released without difficulty and hold to clear out as quickly as possible. None of the prisoners appeared to be anyways disconcerted except one old fellow, who was slightly demented. Frightened by the broad, bright light that poured through the sky light, and the crackling of burning wood, he fell on his knee in the corridor of the Station and lifting his hands in a supplicating way to heaven he silently moved his lips as though petitioning to be saved from death.

The horses in the livery stable were also removed to a place of safety.

AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

For Christmas great preparations have been made at this house. There will be two performances—the matinee and the evening performance. The *Virginian* will be put upon the boards, with the full strength, at each entertainment, Mr. Frank E. Aiken, the star, taking the title *role*. The play is a character to attract and interest and will afford enjoyment to those who attend today.

Fifth Avenue Theatre.

At this establishment there will be two performances—one in the afternoon and the other at night—and *Jack Harkaway* will hold the boards. It is a play full of stirring incident, being dramatized from an exciting serial and all the best points retained. Mr. Hernandez Foster will take the leading character, and will be assisted by the very best talent of the company.

Musical and Dramatic Notes.

Two Christmas performances will be given at the Fifth Avenue Theatre—matinee and evening. Hernandez Foster appears as *Monday* in "Jack Harkaway."

THERE will be two performances at the Opera House to-day—at two o'clock in the afternoon, and in the evening at the usual hour. "The Virginian" will be performed, with Mr Frank E. Aiken in the principal *role*.

THE CATHEDRAL FAIR, for the benefit of St. Paul's Orphan Asylum, is open every evening, and is visited by thousands. The attractions are greater than ever before, and an hour or two may be spent there pleasantly and profitably.

THE sale of tickets for the second performance of the "Bohemian Girl," by the Gounod Club, at Library Hall, on Monday next, was quite large yesterday, and a crowded house will most certainly be on hand on the occasion.

THE next lecture of the course under the auspices of the Mercantile Library Association comes off on Tuesday evening next at Library Hall. Hon. S. S. Cox, the witty member of Congress, will deliver his celebrated lecture on "American Wit and Humor" on the occasion.

MR. J. S. CLARKE, who is now playing to overflowing houses at Ford's Theatre, Washington, is decidedly the most popular comedian in the country. Managers Ellsler and Gotthold have effected an engagement with Mr. Clarke, and he will appear at the Opera House next week, opening on Monday evening in two of his most laughable characters, "Widow Bunt" and "Woddilove, the Fat Boy." We expect to see "standing room only" placed at a conspicuous place every night during his engagement.

ALLEGHENY, December 25, 1874.

Card of Thanks to the Public.

We deem it but justly due to our many customers to sincerely thank them one and all for the very liberal patronage received during the Fall and Holiday Trade. We thank them for their patience in waiting when they found our salesrooms crowded as they have been, and we sincerely thank for their liberal and prompt buying. Wishing them all a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year, we would only say that we would be much pleased to see them all many times again, and will continue to offer them the best possible value in Dry Goods in the future, as we have endeavored to do in the past.

Very Respectfully,
WILLIAM SEMPLE,
No. 165, 167 & 169 Federal St., Allegheny.

A New Process
by which Marvin's Superior Family Crackers are made.

ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Regular Meeting Last Night.

Finishing the Year's Work—Authority to Borrow Money Granted—Troy Hill Improvement Bonds—A Tower On City Hall for the Fire Alarm Bell, &c.

A regular meeting of Allegheny Councils was held last evening.

SELECT COUNCIL.

JAMES McBRIER.....President.
ROLAND T. WHITE.....Clerk.

When this branch was called to order the following members were present: Messrs. Ackley, Bepler, Cochran, Day, Heagy, Hartman, Patterson, Phillips, Slack, Thomas, Wittmer, Voegtly, and President McBrier.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

TROY HILL ROAD.

Mr. PATTERSON presented an ordinance appointing viewers on the grading of Troy Hill road, between Vinial street and Gardner street. Referred.

The business from Common Council of last meeting was taken up and all actions of that body concurred in.

THE FIRE ALARM.

After the reading of the report of the Committee on Fire Engines, relative to the suspension of Mr. L. D. McCandless, Superintendent of the fire alarm telegraph, the chairman read a short communication from Mr. McCandless, complaining that he had been suspended without proper cause, and had been denied a hearing.

The communication was received and the resolution suspending him, which was passed in C. C., was passed.

FINANCIAL.

Mr. SLACK presented the report of the Finance Committee. Report received.

They submitted an ordinance authorizing the Treasurer to borrow $30,000. Passed. In presenting this ordinance Mr. Slack said it was necessary to borrow this money for the reason that that there was $125,000 of the taxes levied this year, which are yet unpaid, and for that reason the loan must be made.

Also, an ordinance relative to furnishing supplies, materials and work for the city. Laid over.

Mr. COCHRAN called up the ordinance for grading and paving of Beaver avenue. Referred to the Street Committee.

Adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

SAMUEL HASTINGS.....President.
ROBERT DILWORTH.....Clerk.

The following members were present at roll call in this branch.

Messrs. Agnew, Burton, Cochran, Drexler, Eberhardt, Gschwend, Golden, Hetzell, Johnston, Klicker, Roberts, Sholes, Stedeford, Strouse, Stone, Selling, and President Hastings.

Mr. BURTON moved to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion was lost and the minutes were read and approved.

The following Select Council business was disposed of:

Mr. GOLDEN called up an ordinance requiring the placing of a flagman at the intersection of Sycamore street and the West Penn railroad. Passed.

An ordinance relative to the payment of the Inspector of grading and paving. Passed.

An ordinance appointing viewers to assess and apportion the cost and expense of the grading, paving, curbing and otherwise improving of the Troy Hill Road. Passed.

An ordinance authorizing the grading, paving and curbing of Williams street, from Ohio to Perry street. Passed.

An ordinance authorizing the grading, paving and curbing of Return street, from the west line of the Orphan Asylum to Water Basin property was read, and Mr. Eberhardt objected to a remonstrance against it, which had the effect of laying it over.

Mr. SHOLES called the attention of the Chair to the fact that Council was without a quorum, some of the members having left.

Mr. HETZELL—I move we adjourn.

The Chair—Can't adjourn without a quorum.

Some of the members returning business was proceeded with.

Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee of Conference appointed in the matter of the grading, paving and curbing of Preble avenue, presented the ordinance with the recommendation that the action of Select Council in passing it be concurred in. The recommendation was adopted, after which the ordinance was passed finally.

An ordinance authorizing the widening of Woodland avenue, from Denver avenue extension to the New Brighton road. Passed.

An ordinance relative to meetings of viewers and the duties of the City Engineer relative to giving notice of the same.

A supplement to an ordinance, adopted May 8, 1873, entitled "an ordinance for the issue of Troy Hill Improvement Bonds and further payment of the contractors of said work," was read by the chair, and Mr. Johnston called attention to the fact that it conflicts with a provision of the Wallace bill, which says no authority for expenditure of money shall originate in the Select Council.

The question was referred to Solicitor Rodgers, and he decided that the section of the Wallace bill quoted by Mr. Johnston was applicable only to the Councils of the city of Philadelphia.

Mr. GOLDEN moved that the supplement be adopted. Lost.

Resolution for the refunding of $2.09, overpaid taxes, to Martha Graham. Adopted.

Resolution instructing the Chairman of the Street Committee to produce to Councils the agreement between the P., Ft. W. & C. R. R., and the city of Allegheny for the grading of Preble avenue. Passed.

The report of the Finance Committee was read and received.

The report of the Park Committee, in reference to the abolition of the Park Commission, was read and accepted.

Mr. ROBERTS offered a resolution instructing the City Engineer to prepare plans for a tower on City Hall, in which to place the fire alarm bell. Referred.

Also, a resolution instructing the Committee on City Property to advertise for bids for the erection of a tower on City Hall, and to award the contract to the lowest bidder. Referred.

Adjourned.

THE COURTS.

YESTERDAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

United States District Court.

(Before Judge McCandless.)

Joseph Sproul, of Butler county, filed a petition for the adjudication in bankruptcy of himself. Referred to Register Shafer.

Simmons & Co., et al., creditors, of Philadelphia, filed a petition in bankruptcy against Thomas J. Fearl, of Hornersville, Somerset county. The usual order was granted. An order was also made restraining certain parties from interfering with the property of the debtor.

Butler, Brown & Clapp, creditors, vs. Isaac Michalisky, debtor St. Petersburg, Clarion county. The debtor having filed an answer denying the allegations contained in the creditors' petition, and demanding a trial by jury, the same was granted and fixed for the next term in May, at Pittsburgh.

J. & M. Childs, bankrupts, Erie county. The hearing on the exceptions filed to the report of Commissioners appointed to ascertain and liquidate the liens against the estate, adjourned to the 23d prox.

(Before Judges Ewing a nd Kirkpatrick.)

James Street & Co. vs. the Pennsylvania Co., operating, as the P. Ft. W. & C. Co., garnishee of A. J. Chambers. Judgment against the garnishee for $225 with leave to plaintiff to issue execution.

City of Allegheny vs. W. J. Morgan's estate. The Court appointed James Grier Auditor, to report distribution of the fund in Court among the parties entitled thereto.

Fulton, Bollman & Co. vs. Howard & Son. The Court directed the Prothonotary to pay to the Auditor, G. F. Gilmore, his fee now, without waiting ten days, or further proceedings.

The Court adjourned yesterday afternoon until to-morrow morning.

Criminal Court.

(Before Judge Collier.)

Daniel Irwin, convicted of burglary. Sentenced three years and six months to the penitentiary.

George S. Knowlton pleaded guilty to embezzlement, charged by A. D. Clark, and was sentenced thirty days to jail.

Alexander Cobb was acquitted of a charge of assault and battery, and the prosecutor, James Wheat, was directed to pay the costs.

Joseph Hickman pleaded guilty to larceny, charged by John Huffington, and was sentenced to the Work House for one year.

Edward Griffin was acquitted of assault and battery, and the prosecutor, August Tenfel, was directed to pay the costs.

George Miller was acquitted of a charge of larceny, and the prosecutor, John P. J. Young was directed to pay the costs.

David Gannon and Matthew Brown pleaded guilty to larceny as bailee and receiving stolen goods, charged by Hattie Hamilton, and a *nolle prosequi* was allowed as to Jas. Conley and Teddy Feehan, defendants to the same indictment.

David Gannon, James Conley, Teddy Feenan, Michael Hawley, David Hall and Matthew Brow were placed on trial on a charge of larceny preferred by Wm. E. Sloss, and acquitted.

Patrick Connell was convicted of larceny, charged by John Urban, but recommended to the mercy of the Court.

John Gallagher, for receiving stolen goods, was sentenced to two years in the Work House.

John McGratney, for assault with intent to rob, was sentenced two years the Work House.

Frederick A. Eberhart, for larceny, was sentenced to nine months in the Work House.

Patrick Connell, for larceny, noticed above, was sentenced to the Work House for sixty days.

David Anday, on several indictments for larceny, was sentenced to six years and six months in all to the Penitentiary.

Robert Richmond was sentenced to the Penitentiary for two years and six months.

Court adjourned until Monday morning next, when the trial of Edward Carr, charged with the murder of Dolan will commence.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS.

The Festivities Ushering in the Merry Christmas Time.

The genial spirit of the glad Christmas time was abroad last night, and the larger folk as well as the younger came under the witchery of its spell. In happy family circles, where pleasure waits on plenty, the evening was commemorated by the bustle of preparation for the morrow, when affection should find its outflow in the loving ministry of gift-giving. But the shadow of the Christmas time seemed to fall especially upon the churches where the story of the Wonderful Child and its manger cradle, though an old, old story, yet never loses freshness or its attractive power. Even the veriest old Scrooge, if he had been privileged to take a saunter among the sects last evening, could hardly have resisted the cheery influence of the visions of beauty and happiness that would have met his gaze.

The preparations for the proper observance of the festal occasion were more general than usual, and in most instances were of a more elaborate character. The toil of weeks was exhibited in decorations that for beauty and picturesque effect, were worthy an artist's pencil, and the exercises which marked the approach of the Christmastide grand holiday were of a character as interesting as they were in many cases unique.

Among those which came under our observation were the services at

ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

This church has always been famous for the character of its decorations, but the present year was rather beyond any previous effort. The church was literally overwhelmed in evergreens, worked into all conceivable forms — and yet, with all the abundance there was an evidence of taste throughout, that gave evidence that artistic minds as well as fair hands had been engaged.

The exercises of the evening consisted of a very choice selection of Christmas anthems and carols, in which the school and the Quartette and Chorus choirs took part. The music, for the most part, was rendered by the Quartette and Chorus choirs, and was unusually excellent, the selections being happily made and the singing spirited and free. The musical programme was interspersed with catechetical exercises—the Rector, Rev. Dr. Spalding catechising the children and after which he was presented with hearts were made glad with an abundance of sweetmeats, fruit, books, &c. A feature of the gift-giving was the presentation to the Rector of a beautiful engraving—a gift from the Chorus choir.

The entertainment throughout was one of the most pleasant ever held at St. Peters, and was alike enjoyed by the older as well as the younger fraternity.

NORTH AVENUE, ALLEGHENY.

In the North avenue M. E. church, Allegheny, great preparations had also been made for "Christmas Eve," and the result was a very enjoyable entertainment. The beautiful Sunday school room had been handsomely decorated for the occasion with evergreens in festoons, wreaths, mottoes, and with two Christmas trees, on which a portion of the sweetmeat packages were hung. A gas jet arching twelve feet high, over the platform, bore the motto "Immanuel" mass motto,—in which the artistic skill and exquisite taste of our young friend Mr. Charles McOwen were exemplified—were noticable features of the decoractions.

The programme of exercises was quite brief, was enjoyable, and consisted of Christmas music from the choir, several recitations by the children, and Christmas corals, and other exercises by a class of ten little girls, who performed their parts in a surprisingly, artless, and charming manner. At the close of the children's entertainment, a brief telegram was sent to Santa Claus, who answered the dispatch by making his appearance in the audience, and personally extending his greeting to the children, and then followed it up with peremptory orders to have the gifts at once distributed —a command which the children hailed with delight.

After the sweetmeats had been passed around, Santa discovered that his pack had not been emptied, and so successively from it he produced a handsome stand of lillies for the altar, for the use of the young ladies in her class; an elegant Bagster Bible for the pastor, Rev. E. B. Snyder; and a gold-headed cane for the Superintendent, Mr. John G. Scott—the two latter gifts coming from the teachers. The recipients were genuinely surprised, and the speeches were necessarily brief but pointed.

Having thus disposed of his stock, Santa dismissed the audience with his kindliest blessing resting upon them.

A WORTHY GENTLEMAN COMPLIMENTED.

Yesterday a very pleasant occasion took place at the Old Tea House of Mr. D. M. Jenkins, on Fifth avenue. The clerks, both male and female, desiring to give expression to the high regard which they entertained for their employer, took advantage of the opportunity afforded by the old gentleman's birthday to present him an elegant silver soup tureen and a silver ladle. This token of esteem speaks well for the kindly feeling existing between both employer and employees of this firm, and no doubt was richly deserved by the recipient, because of the courtesy manifested toward those with whom he is associated.

SOUTH COMMON CHURCH.

The South Common M. E. Sunday School hold their annual Christmas festivities on Friday evening. The lecture room of the church has been elaborately decorated, and presents a most pleasing appearance. The children receive their presents at three o'clock in the evening. Singing and speaking will form part of the exercises. A church supper by the ladies of the congregation will be served during the evening. Every preparation has been made to insure the participants a most enjoyable evening. The festivities are open for all comers.

AT THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Among the other pleasant incidents that mark the advent of the festive season was the presentation at the High School. The gifts distributed by the pupils—An "English Encyclopedia" was presented to Prof. Henry Gibbon; an opera-glass to Prof. Merrick; ornamented desks to Profs. Bancroft and Wood; and writing-desks to Miss Voigt and Prof. Wead. Miss Woods, Miss Ralston, Miss Simpson, and Messrs. Cochran and Everhard also received gifts. The members of the Faculty, and the scholars of the school also gave Dr. Jillson handsome presents. The occasion was one of fraternal feeling, and formed an episode in school life that cannot but bind pupils and teachers more closely together.

A Coke Fire.

Did you ever try to burn coke—that made by the gas works—in an open grate? If not, you ought to try it once and see how superior it is to a coal fire. It is very much cleaner, makes no smoke or soot or dust, as a coal fire does, and yet emits a heat twice as great as coal. The proper way to burn it is by using the blower (a tin sheet iron made by any tinner for a few cents,) for three or four minutes and you will have such a fire that will make you sit as far away from the fire as the walls will admit. And yet the price is much less than coal—the Pittsburgh and Allegheny Gas Companies are now selling it at four cents per bushel in their yards, and delivering it for five cents per bushel—while coal costs you nine or ten cents. Where cheapness as well as cleanliness and comfort is much superior to coal. T. F.

Try Them Once

and you will never want any others. Marvin's Superior Family Cracker.

Christmas Presents.

American Sewing Machines for sale, cheap for holiday presents at No 1 Sixth street.

Family Crackers

are not sweet—sold by all grocers.

Make the Little Ones Happy

Get your Candies, Toys, Tree Ornaments, Fancy Boxes, Nuts, Raisins, &c., &c., at KRAMER & VOGLESON'S, 51 Sixth street. Retailed at wholesale prices.

Ladies Watches.

Flat back, Oval, Stem and Key winding Ladies Gold Watches all prices, at Geo. W. Biggs, No. 159 Smithfield street, four doors above Sixth avenue.

"A Dollar Saved is a Dollar Earned."

Franklin Savings Bank, Allegheny, will receive *One Dollar* and upwards,. Deposits of small amounts especially solicited. You can draw your money at any time *without notice*, or if left on time will draw *Six per cent.* interest. Try it.

One Dollar a Day

in five years will amount to $1794 10 if deposited in the Franklin Savings Bank, Allegheny.

Christmas Presents.

American Sewing Machines for sale, cheap for holiday presents at No 1 Sixth street.

Ladies Watches.

The largest assortment of Ladies Gold Watches in the city to be found at Geo. W. Biggs, No. 159 Smithfield street, four doors above Sixth avenue.

The Great King of the Fairy Land,

"SANTA CLAUS,"

Is at KRAMER & VOGLESON'S, 51 Sixth street. Go and see the immense stock of Candies, Toys, Fancy Boxes, Tree Ornaments, &c., &c., that he has with him.

Pittsburgh Monumental Granite Works, corner Penn avenue and Thirty-second street. ALEXANDER CASKEY.

The Safest Place in the World

for depositing money is in a Bank where the the stockholders are *individually liable*, such as the *Franklin Savings Bank, Allegheny*.

GEORGE R. RIDDLE, President.

Pittsburgh Monumental Granite Works, corner Penn avenue and Thirty-second street. ALEXANDER CASKEY.

The Great Central Mart

for Holiday Goods, such as Toys, (German and American) French Fancy Boxes, Tree Ornaments, Candies, Nuts, Raisins, &c. &c., at 51 Sixth street.

KRAMER & VOGLESON.

Pittsburgh Monumental Granite Works, corner Penn avenue and Thirty-second street. ALEXANDER CASKEY.

Christmas Presents.

American Sewing Machines for sale cheap for holiday presents at No 1 Sixth street.

Pittsburgh Monumental Granite Works, corner Penn avenue and Thirty-second street. ALEXANDER CASKEY.

Christmas Trees.

The best place in the city to get them is at KRAMER & VOGLESON'S, 51 Sixth street. Two car loads just received.

BREVITIES.

Paragraphic Pencilings of Passing Events.

····Pittsburgh Councils hold a regular meeting on Monday.

····A special train was put on the Castle Shannon Railroad last evening.

····The South Side Schools closed yesterday and will not be opened until after the first of January.

····The piano establishment of S. Hamilton & Co. on Fifth avenue, was robbed on Tuesday afternoon of $138.

····A banquet was given by Prothonotary Kennedy last night to a number of invited guests, which proved a very pleasant affair.

····The Youngstown *Evening Register* is a neat and newsy paper, and we are glad to know that it is succeeding admirably, as its merits deserve.

····Pittsburgh is flooded with thieves, but precious few of them are being arrested. They are boldly committing depredations in all quarters, and no effort is made to molest them.

····A brakeman named Slingerman fell from a moving train yesterday morning, at Sag Hollow, on the Pennsylvania railroad, and sustained a fracture of the leg, besides being considerably bruised about the head.

····William Crump and Henry Doerr, who were arrested a few days ago for assaulting Contractor Scanlon, were held in the sum of $500 bail for trial at Court by Alderman Krehan, of the South Side, yesterday.

····The official vote for councilman in the Fourth ward, Allegheny to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. McNeil's resignation, was as follows: James Callery, Democrat, 346; P. Walter, Jr., Republican, 233; Edwin Lane, Independent, 108.

····With the exception of the case of McKinney's assignee vs. Wood et al., which will be resumed next Monday, there will be no further jury trials in the District Court until January, at which time this Court will be known as Common Pleas No. 2.

····The hired man at the residence of Mr. E. H. Myers, at Roup's station, frightened off two men who were endeavoring to effect an entrance into the building early yesterday morning. He could have killed one of the burglars, but cotented himself with discharging his fusee in the air.

····Hugh Bennet and Wm. Wallace were arrested on Wednesday night by the Baum brothers for prowling around their premises in a suspicious manner at an unseemly hour of the night. They were escorted before Deputy Mayor Mitchell, of East Liberty, who sent them to Claremont.

····Stephen Melaney had his arm crushed early yesterday morning by a freight train, at Bridgeport, on the Connellsville railroad, about twelve miles this side of Cumberland. Melaney was taken to Meyersdale, where the member was amputated, after which he was brought to this city and placed in the hospital.

····The will of Mrs. Catharine Weil, late of this city was filed with Register Gray yesterday morning. Decedent, after directing that $500 each be paid to Heinrich Schuppner and Helena Rober, bequeaths the balance of her property to her husband and appoints him sole executor. The document is dated Nov. 23, 1874.

····A Temperance mass meeting will be held in the First Presbyterian Church on the South Side next Monday evening. The topics for discussion are: "Temperance Organizations," Joseph Blackshaw; "What the Membership of Such Organizations Should Consist of," J. H. Burt; "How They Should be Conducted," Dr. J. C. Kennedy.

····The Indiana *Messenger* has donned a beautiful new dress of type, a new power press has been added to the establishment, and the paper now presents a handsomer appearance than ever. The *Messenger* is an excellent paper, worthy the support of the Republicans of Indiana county, and we are pleased at this fresh evidence of its prosperity.

····The choir of the Second avenue Welsh Methodist church will give a concert this evening, in the Fourteenth ward public school building, on Fifth avenue, at half past seven o'clock. It will be assisted by the Sabbath school children under the leadership of Prof. J. D. Jones. This promises to be a rich musical treat, and no doubt will attract a large crowd.

····The Youngstown *Register* gives the particulars of an accident which occurred while blasting at the Style coal bank, near that place, on Wednesday, by which a miner named John Lamb lost his life by the explosion of a blast. The unfortunate victim of this disaster was about thirty years of age, and leaves a wife and two small children to mourn his untimely end.

····One of our exchanges propounds the following problem, which we reproduce for the benefit of those interested: Why is it that a young fellow and his girl can sit in the parlor until after midnight without making noise enough for the old folks to hear them through the partition, but can't sit in a public place five minutes without annoying the entire house with their giggling and talking? "Echo answers" why.

Funeral from the residence of his parents, on SUNDAY, December 27th, at 2 o'clock.

(Lancaster papers please copy.)

MIERSCH—On Thursday morning, December 24th, at 8:30 A. M., LAURA EMMA, only child of C. H. and Louisa Miersch, aged 3 years and 16 days.

The funeral will take place from the residence of her parents, No. 212 Chartiers street, Allegheny, on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, December 27, at 2 o'clock. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

ROBERTSON—On Thursday morning, December 24th, 1874, ARCHIE FERGUSON, son of A. and Amanda J. Robertson, aged 1 year, 3 months and 13 days.

The funeral will take place from the residence of his parents, THIS AFTERNOON, December 25th, at 2 o'clock. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend.

YOUNG—On Wednesday evening, December 23, 1874, at 10:30 o'clock, EMMA S. YOUNG, aged 21 years and 8 months.

The funeral will take place from the residence of her brother, R. H. Young, Union township, on SUNDAY AFTERNOON, December 27th, at 2 o'clock. The friends are invited to attend. Carriages will leave Fairman & Samson's office, No. 19 Seventh avenue, at 1 o'clock P. M.

FLOOD—On 10:30 Wednesday morning, WILLIE, son of William and the late Lizzie Floyd, aged 16 years, 3 months and 2 days.

The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend the funeral, from the residence of his father, No. 9 Congress street, on FRIDAY AFTERNOON, at 2 o'clock, December 25, 1874.

RODNEY & SMITH,
UNDERTAKERS
No. 39 Ohio Street, Allegheny.
Coffins and Caskets of all kin